Your Guide to Index Annuities

A Smart Choice for Safety Conscious Individuals Seeking Financial Security and Growth

RELIANCE STANDARD
A MEMBER OF THE TOKIO MARINE GROUP

RS-2325-TM

Protect Your Future

Whether you're preparing for retirement or already enjoying retirement, an index annuity can be a smart way to safeguard your retirement income with guaranteed returns. Index annuities offer tax-deferred growth, protection for your money against losses and lifetime income.

An index annuity may appeal to you if:

- You wish to participate in a portion of the upside of the stock market's growth potential, while eliminating your downside market risk.
- You need to rollover a lump-sum payment from a company-sponsored retirement or pension plan.
- You want to contribute to an annuity because you've already contributed the maximum to your IRA or other qualified plans.

For more than 100 years, Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company has been helping people achieve their financial objectives. We are proud of our long and distinguished heritage in serving the needs of generations of Americans. Working with your insurance professional and other trusted advisors, Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company can help you find the index annuity that's right for your needs.

Why choose an index annuity?

Annuities are long-term financial contracts designed to help secure your financial future by providing you with a predictable, guaranteed income stream. The major benefits of index annuities are:

- **Index-linked interest**—Your interest rate during the accumulation period (or growth phase) of your contract will be determined based on a portion of the changes in the S&P 500 Index®,[1] excluding dividends.
- **Safety of principal**—Your annuity cannot lose value as long as your insurer remains financially solvent and you do not withdraw your annuity value prematurely. Keep in mind that an annuity is a long-term contract, so surrender charges may apply if you take withdrawals before the end of the surrender charge period.
- **Tax deferral**—Your annuity earnings accumulate tax-deferred until you begin making withdrawals, helping your annuity potentially grow faster over time, since interest will accumulate on the amounts you would have ordinarily paid in income taxes.
- **Guaranteed lifetime income**—Your annuity guarantees that you can receive payments as long as you live, providing you with increased security and peace of mind.

*Indexed strategies may be removed or reallocations may not be possible.

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What is an annuity?

An annuity is a financial contract between you (the owner of the contract) and an insurance company that guarantees you regular payments over the lifetime of the annuitant, typically in the form of a check or an automatic deposit made to your bank account. Annuity income can be a welcome supplement to other forms of income in retirement, such as Social Security payments, retirement plan distributions and earned income—helping you enjoy a more comfortable future.

- The **accumulation period** is the period of time in which earnings on your premium are accumulating on a tax-deferred basis and you are not receiving income.
- The **payout period** begins when you start to receive your money back plus interest in the form of monthly income and can last as long as you live. It's impossible to outlive your income when you purchase an annuity and choose a life income option.

Interest is accumulated on a tax-deferred basis in your annuity until you begin your payout period. When you begin your payout period, your insurance company starts paying you back the money you've contributed to your annuity plus interest in regular installments. The insurer will then continue to make payments as long as you live, helping you make the most of your retirement years. Alternatively, your annuity earnings can be paid to you through systematic withdrawals that may begin as early as the first year of your contract.

What will your index annuity earn?

Each year, your index annuity will earn interest linked to the growth in the S&P 500 Index, excluding dividends. The S&P 500 Index is comprised of the stocks of 500 large, widely-held U.S. companies.

- When the returns of this broad stock market index go up, your annuity will receive interest based on a portion of the change in the index and the index strategies that you have selected.
- Once the index-linked interest is earned, it is "locked in," and cannot be affected by any future index declines.
- When the index goes down, you have no downside risk because your annuity can never earn less than zero percent interest.

Your annuity also includes a separate minimum guarantee that means no matter how poorly the index were to perform over the life of your contract, your premium will accumulate annually at the guaranteed minimum interest rate.

Each year, the minimum guaranteed value accumulates at the minimum guaranteed interest rate, and the annuity value earns interest linked to any growth in the index. When you access the value of your annuity, you will receive the greater of the minimum guaranteed value or the annuity value.

You may also want to consider allocating a portion of your annuity value to a fixed interest strategy. For the first contract year, the fixed interest strategy will earn a competitive, guaranteed initial interest rate. Thereafter, Reliance Standard will declare a new interest rate for each year. This rate will never be lower than the guaranteed minimum rate. For more details about the minimum guarantees, index strategies*, interest rates, participation rates and index interest caps, ask your insurance professional for a detailed Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company index annuity product fact sheet.

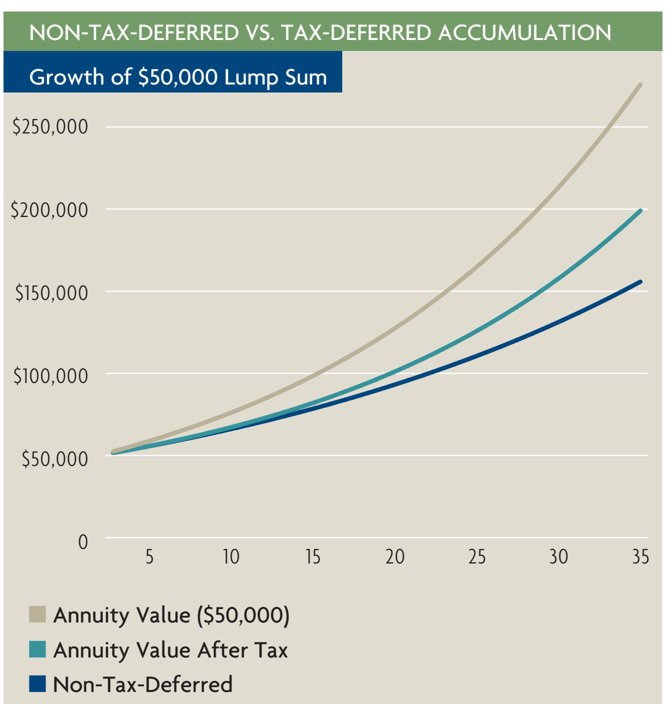
We offer a wide variety of index annuity solutions. Your insurance professional can help you evaluate which policy has the potential to best suit your needs. At Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company, we are proud of our excellent reputation in the industry for fair and competitive annuity policy terms.

[1] "Standard & Poor's 500" is a trademark of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. and has been licensed for use by Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company. This Product is not sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by Standard & Poor's and Standard & Poor's makes no representation regarding the advisability of purchasing this product.

Tax Deferral Helps Your Money Grow Faster

The most common type of annuity is a “non-qualified” annuity. Non-qualified annuities are funded with after-tax funds from income that you’ve already paid taxes on. However, your annuity earnings grow tax-deferred until you begin withdrawing money from your annuity. As a result, the value of your annuity has the potential to grow faster than it would in taxable alternatives, such as CDs or taxable money market accounts earning the same rate of return. By deciding when to withdraw funds from your annuity, you decide when to pay taxes on earnings. Many people plan to pay taxes on their non-qualified annuity earnings during their retirement years, when their income levels and tax rates have the potential to be lower than during their working years.

Another type of annuity is known as a “qualified” annuity, because it receives similar tax treatments to qualified retirement plans. With a qualified annuity, your contributions are typically not included as income in the year you make them. Your earnings are allowed to grow tax-deferred over time and you eventually pay taxes on your withdrawals. Qualified annuities are typically purchased by people who are self-employed, own small businesses or are employed by a company of any size and are rolling over their qualified plan balances after terminating their employment.



Funding Your Annuity

Your annuity can be funded from a variety of income sources. Traditional, non-qualified annuities are typically funded with after-tax savings or income, such as taxable income from employment, proceeds from the sale of a house or assets withdrawn from a taxable brokerage or savings account. However, you may also open an annuity with pre-tax savings or income, including rollovers from qualified retirement plans such as 401(k) or pension plans, by electing an Individual Retirement Annuity.

IRA rollovers & transfers

All of our index annuities can be purchased as Traditional Individual Retirement Annuities with rollover funds from qualified employer plans or rollovers or transfers from existing IRA accounts with other financial institutions. For more information, please consult our IRA Disclosure Statement for a complete explanation of the options and distribution requirements.

Roth IRA conversions

All of our index annuities can be purchased as Roth Individual Retirement Annuities and can be used to convert Traditional IRAs to Roth IRAs. For more information, please consult our Roth IRA Disclosure Statement for a complete explanation of the options and distribution requirements.

If you purchase an annuity as a Traditional IRA, or Roth IRA, keep in mind that the annuity offers no additional tax advantages, since IRAs already provide tax-deferred status. You should purchase an annuity in an IRA only when one or more of the features of the annuity, such as minimum guarantees, death benefits and life income options, are of value to you.

Specific questions about your own personal tax situation should be addressed by a competent tax professional.

The graph assumes a $50,000 premium, a combined federal and state income tax rate of 34% over a 35 year period and a 5% rate of return. This example is used for illustrative purposes only.

The return is not indicative of any specific annuity product and is not a projection of future values. Surrender charges are not taken into account and, if applicable, would reduce the annuity performance shown. Actual results will vary. Withdrawals from an annuity, prior to age 59-1/2, may be subject to a 10% federal penalty tax. A surrender charge will apply to withdrawals in excess of the 10% penalty-free amount that are made during the surrender charge period. Actual returns will vary depending on your specific tax rate (which may be more or less than the figures shown). A lower tax rate on capital gains and dividends would increase the growth rate of the non-tax-deferred account. In evaluating the purchase of an annuity, you should consider your investment time horizon and tax brackets, both current and anticipated.

Please note that by liquidating current taxable holdings, you may be subject to capital gains or losses, which could impact your tax liability. In addition, tax-deferred performance will be reduced by income taxes on gains upon withdrawal.

Accessing Your Money Prior to Maturity

For maximum flexibility, you can access money in your annuity from the first day of your contract. You can withdraw up to 10% of your annuity value each year with no surrender charges. Withdrawals from your annuity, other than one of the Income Options shown on this page, will be considered to have been distributed from your interest earnings or amounts includible in income first and subject to ordinary income taxes and then a non-taxable return of principal. In addition, a 10% Federal penalty tax on the earnings may apply on withdrawals made before age 59-1/2.

To maximize the interest credited to your annuity, penalty-free withdrawals should be taken on the first day of a Contract Year after any index interest has been credited to your policy for the preceding year. Keep in mind that any amount you withdraw during the year will not receive any index interest credit at the end of that year.

Should you decide to withdraw more than the penalty-free amount allowed during the surrender charge period specified in your contract, your withdrawal may be subject to surrender charges. To learn more about when surrender charges apply, ask your insurance professional for a detailed Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company annuity product fact sheet.

You may be eligible for penalty-free access to your annuity value if you are confined to a qualified nursing care facility, hospital or custodial care facility. You may access your entire annuity value penalty-free in the event that, after the first Contract Year, you are initially diagnosed as having a terminal illness by a qualified physician.

Beginning Your Payout Period

The person who purchases an annuity is called the "owner." The person whose life expectancy determines the annuity payments during the payout period is called the "annuitant." The owner and annuitant are the same person unless someone other than the owner is designated as the annuitant.

Once your annuity reaches its maturity date, you will choose one of the income options listed in the next section to begin the annuity's payout period.

Your annuity's maturity date is set so that it occurs on the first contract anniversary to occur after the annuitant turns 85 or the end of the tenth contract year, whichever comes later. You may elect an income option under which payments begin prior to the maturity date, but keep in mind that surrender charges may apply if payments begin before the end of the fifth year of your contract or you choose an income option after the fifth year and your payout period is less than five years. Please review the annuity product fact sheet for more details regarding surrender charges.

Income Options

- **Life annuity**—A monthly income payable over the annuitant's lifetime.
- **Life annuity with payments certain**—A monthly income payable over the annuitant's lifetime with the additional guarantee that in the event of death prior to the end of the specified period (such as 5, 10 or as long as 20 years), payments will continue to your designated beneficiary for the remainder of the specified period.
- **Designated period annuity**—A monthly income payable in equal installments for a specified period (such as 5, 10 or as long as 20 years).
- **Joint and last survivor annuity**—A monthly income payable over the lifetime of an annuitant and thereafter during the lifetime of a designated surviving annuitant.

Death Benefit

Your annuity contract's death benefit is payable to your beneficiary upon your death. If you are also the annuitant, then your policy's death benefit will be equal to the annuity's value or any guaranteed minimum values stated in your contract. If the annuitant is someone other than you, the policy's death benefit will be equal to the annuity's value or any guaranteed minimum values stated in your contract less any applicable surrender charges.

For non-qualified annuities, federal tax law provides that the entire annuity value must be distributed to your beneficiaries no later than the fifth anniversary of your death unless:

- A spousal beneficiary continues the contract as owner.
- A non-spousal beneficiary elects periodic income payments not exceeding his or her life expectancy and such payments begin within one year of your death.

Either of these choices must be elected within 60 days of the date we receive proof of death.

Federal tax laws also require that a qualified annuity's value be distributed to the beneficiary(ies) following the owner's death. Please review the Traditional IRA, or Roth-IRA disclosure statement for a thorough description of the post-death distribution requirements for IRAs.

If the beneficiary designation is structured properly, the annuity value will pass directly from the owner to the beneficiary. Moreover, the value will not be subject to the delay, legal or administrative costs and publicity associated with probate.

Getting Started

Offering tax-advantaged growth, protection for your principal against losses and guaranteed lifetime income, an index annuity can be a highly effective way to plan for a comfortable retirement. As with any financial contract, it is important to understand all terms and conditions before making a decision. Your insurance professional can answer all of your questions and help you find the right annuity for your needs. Call your insurance professional to get started today.

This brochure provides a summary of the features of Reliance Standard's index annuity products.
It does not modify the terms of any annuity contract. Product features, riders and options may vary by state.

For further details, review the Annuity Product Fact Sheet for your particular product.
Policy Form #RSL-8344-0107, RSL-8347-0107, RSL-8349-0107, RSL-8339-0705,
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Home Office: Chicago, Illinois
Administrative Office: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
2001 Market Street, Suite 1500
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(800) 351-7500
www.reliancestandard.com

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A MEMBER OF THE TOKIO MARINE GROUP

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