

# Prudential Managed Defensive Fund

A sub-fund of Prudential Investment Funds (1)

Annual short report for the year ended 31 October 2011



# Authorised Corporate Director's report

## **Investment objective of the Prudential Managed Defensive Fund**

The Fund's objective is to deliver long term total return (the combination of income and growth of capital) with a bias towards income.

## **Policy for achieving the objective of the Prudential Managed Defensive Fund**

The Fund aims to achieve its objective through asset allocation unconstrained by any benchmark. The Fund may invest globally either directly or via other collective investment schemes in assets including transferable securities, debt instruments, money market instruments, cash, near cash, deposits, derivatives, and indirectly in property. Derivative instruments may be used for both investment purposes and efficient portfolio management. The Fund will invest no more than 35% of the portfolio in equities.

## Risk profile

All stockmarket investments carry risk, the value of your investment and any income from it may fall as well as rise and you may not get back your original investment. Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The level of income is not fixed and may vary. A rising rate of inflation will have the effect of reducing the actual value of any gain by an equivalent amount. The current tax regime applicable to investors in this Collective Investment Scheme is not guaranteed and may change in the future.

Collective Investment Schemes invest in a range of assets, each with its individual risks. While the fund manager will exercise due skill and care in selecting such schemes for investment, he will not have any control over the management of these schemes or the fair pricing of their underlying securities. As such, there is no guarantee that fair value is at all times reflected in the reported net asset value.

The fund can hold fixed interest investments, the value of the fixed interest securities held in the fund will fall in the event of a default or perceived increased credit risk of an issuer. Yields of the fixed interest securities held may vary and the level of income may fluctuate. High-yielding bonds are generally issued by companies with lower credit ratings. They are more likely to default on their payments than traditional corporate bonds but offer a higher yield in return.

The fund can hold investments in property funds. The following risk factors are applicable to the property asset class. It is anticipated that rental growth will take place for any property investments. Rent default could have an adverse impact on the performance of rental growth. The value of any property holding is generally determined by the opinion of a standing independent valuer and is therefore subjective. Property investments can be relatively illiquid compared to bonds and equities. Liquidity is a measure of how easily an investment can be traded.

The fund may use derivatives for investment purposes as well as for efficient portfolio management. To the extent that derivatives are used for investment purposes, the net asset value of the fund may at times be volatile. Although the fund manager will select the counterparties with which it enters into derivative transactions with due skill and care, there will be residual risk that the counterparty may default on its obligations or become insolvent.

## Investment activities over the report period

During the 12 months under review, the Prudential Managed Defensive Fund produced a total return (capital performance with net income reinvested) of 2.5%\*. This was ahead of the average total return of 0.7%\* in the fund's peer group, the IMA Cautious Managed sector.

While the fund's combined equity and fixed interest holdings delivered positive returns overall, the review period offered a mixed bag of investor sentiment, volatility and risk aversion. The period began with the US Federal Reserve's plan to inject \$600 billion into the country's financial system to encourage growth, which contributed to the Dow Jones Index hitting two-year highs. The end of the period also saw European markets rallying strongly on expectations that policy initiatives would begin to provide some certainty to the continent's on-going sovereign debt crisis.

The period in-between was not so clear-cut. As we moved through 2011, civil unrest across the Middle East and North Africa fuelled concerns about potential oil supply problems, and the devastating earthquake and tsunami which struck Japan on 11 March threw stockmarkets into chaos.

Going into the summer, global markets experienced a prolonged bout of risk aversion and extreme volatility, which intensified noticeably in August and again in September. Equities were sold indiscriminately across the world as investors worried about the ability of policymakers

to solve the eurozone's debt problems. A reduction in global growth expectations in response to fiscal tightening in developed countries also dampened investor sentiment and appetite for riskier assets.

Given these conditions, the fund manager felt that risk assets, particularly equities, appeared attractively priced, but not inexpensive enough to justify the inherent risks in volatile markets. He reduced the fund's target allocation to equities in the run-up to the summer, from 20% to 15%, but added back to the position at the beginning of October when pricing appeared more favourable, settling at 21%.

There were a number of changes to the equities portion of the portfolio over the reporting period, resulting from several mergers between funds in the Prudential range with funds managed by M&G Investments. The Prudential European Trust merged with the M&G Pan European Fund while the Prudential North American Trust merged with the M&G American Fund. By the end of the reporting period, the majority of the fund's equity holdings were divided between the M&G Pan European Fund and the Prudential UK Growth QIS Fund, both with 8% targeted allocations.

The fund manager maintained his 9% target allocation to property throughout the period. This was through the M&G Property Portfolio which produced positive, though muted, returns over the period while providing an additional element of diversification.

In terms of fixed interest, the fund manager adjusted allocations in line with equity holdings, increasing his target holdings from 47.5% to 60% of the overall portfolio through the middle of the period, and reducing this back to 55% by the end. He remained very negative on government bonds throughout the review period, believing the asset class to be highly overvalued, and where possible he avoided holding them within the fund.

He was more positive on corporate bonds, which he believed were offering much better value than their government counterparts, with credit spreads (the difference between the yield on a corporate bond and a government bond of a similar maturity) appearing attractive. He felt that there was still a good selection of well financed businesses offering shorter or medium-term bonds at attractive rates of interest which more than compensated investors for the possibility that they might not be able to pay back their loans.

In another fund merger, the Prudential Corporate Bond Trust merged with the M&G Corporate Bond Fund, which performed well over the review period, while exposure to the M&G European Corporate Bond Fund also added value to the portfolio. In addition, the fund manager gained confidence in the high yield bond sector, and as the period progressed he increased his targeted allocation from 2.5% to 10%.

In the alternatives space, the fund manager reduced his targeted exposure to hedge funds from 0.5% to 0.2% of the portfolio, while also slightly trimming exposure to distressed debt from 0.5% to 0.4%. In the middle of the review period, he added a small percentage of exposure to private equity through Conversus Capital and Catco Reinsurance, equating to 1% of the portfolio.

The fund manager believes that, particularly concerning Europe, market risks still very much exist. Political will and strong policy decisions, including additional fiscal consolidation across the EU, will be necessary to help shore up the financial system, and it is unlikely to be a smooth road in the near term. As such, the fund manager believes that holding a balanced range of assets is the best way to provide a healthy risk-adjusted return for the fund's investors, without over-exposure to any single part of the market. The driver of the Prudential Managed Defensive Fund is asset allocation and stock selection with reference to a comparable peer group. Further moves to achieve closer alignment with this benchmark are possible going forward into the next reporting period.

\* Source: Morningstar, Inc.

Basis: Bid to bid with net income reinvested to 31 October 2011.

Please note that the views expressed in this report should not be taken as a recommendation or advice on how the fund or any holding mentioned in the report is likely to perform. If you wish to obtain financial advice as to whether an investment is suitable for your needs, you should consult a financial adviser.

## Fund summary

### Classification of investments

The table below shows the percentage holding per sector.

	% of sub-fund as at	
	31.10.11	31.10.10
Equity portfolios	20.26	19.55
Continental Europe	8.61	5.30
United Kingdom	8.46	6.07
Far East	3.19	2.66
United States	0.00	5.52
Equity investment instruments	3.49	2.42
Non-equity investment instruments	1.71	1.11
Property portfolios	8.71	8.84
Bond portfolios	67.19	68.23
Forward currency contracts	(0.24)	(1.18)

# Fund summary

## Major holdings

The top ten holdings at the end of this year and the previous year end are shown below.

	% of sub-fund as at 31.10.11		% of sub-fund as at 31.10.10
M&G European Corporate Bond Fund Sterling Class 'A' (Accumulation)	23.28	Prudential Corporate Bond Trust Sterling Class 'C' (Income)	25.06
M&G Corporate Bond Fund Sterling Class 'I' (Income)	23.23	M&G European Corporate Bond Fund Sterling Class 'A' (Accumulation)	21.09
M&G High Interest Fund Sterling Class 'A' (Income)	10.85	M&G High Interest Fund Sterling Class 'A' (Income)	19.62
M&G Property Portfolio Sterling Class 'S' (Income)	8.71	M&G Property Portfolio Sterling Class 'S' (Income)	8.84
M&G Pan European Fund Sterling Class 'A' (Income)	8.61	Prudential UK Growth Trust Sterling Class 'C' (Income)	6.07
Prudential UK Growth QIS Fund Sterling Class 'C' (Income)	8.46	Prudential North American Trust Sterling Class 'C' (Income)	5.52
M&G High Yield Corporate Bond Fund Sterling Class 'X' (Accumulation)	7.68	Prudential European Trust Sterling Class 'C' (Income)	5.30
Prudential Pacific Markets Trust Sterling Class 'C' (Income)	3.19	Prudential Pacific Markets Trust Sterling Class 'C' (Income)	2.66
M&G European Loan Fund Sterling Class 'A' (Income)	2.15	M&G European Loan Fund Sterling Class 'A' (Income)	2.46
International Public Partner	1.83	International Public Partnerships	1.81

Sterling Class 'C' shares are not generally available to all investors.

## Distribution dates and fund facts

Distribution type	xd	payment
Final	01.11.12	31.12.12

	Final distribution		Total Expense Ratio <sup>[b]</sup>	
	Inc 31.12.11 <sup>[a]</sup>	Acc 01.11.11 <sup>[a]</sup>	31.10.11	31.10.10
<b>Sterling Class 'A'</b>	p	p	%	%
	2.2980	2.4860	1.81	1.62
<b>Class 'C'</b>	3.4952	n/a	0.32	0.28

<sup>[a]</sup> The date on which the final distribution will be paid to Income shareholders and credited to Accumulation shareholders.

<sup>[b]</sup> The Total Expense Ratio (TER) shows the relevant annualised operating expenses of each share class from the most recent reporting period as a single percentage of the average net asset value for that share class over the same period.

# Fund summary

## Fund performance

Performance of share classes

	Net asset value per share as at 31.10.11		Net asset value per share as at 31.10.10		Net asset value % change	
	Inc	Acc	Inc	Acc	Inc	Acc
<b>Sterling Class 'A'</b>	p	p	p	p	%	%
	110.59	123.00	110.06	119.97	+0.30	+2.48
<b>Class 'C'</b>	110.68	n/a	110.15	n/a	+5.51	n/a

## Prices

	Calendar year	Income shares		Accumulation shares	
		Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest
<b>Sterling Class 'A'</b>		p	p	p	p
	2007 <sup>[a]</sup>	102.55	98.91	103.53	98.91
	2008	101.92	90.11	103.50	92.43
	2009	109.05	91.20	113.88	94.92
	2010	113.61	106.14	121.57	113.51
	2011 <sup>[b]</sup>	114.87	107.97	125.16	117.77
<b>Class 'C'</b>	2007 <sup>[a]</sup>	103.28	99.23	n/a	n/a
	2008	102.15	90.03	n/a	n/a
	2009	110.13	91.46	n/a	n/a
	2010	114.91	106.38	n/a	n/a
	2011 <sup>[b]</sup>	115.79	109.23	n/a	n/a

<sup>[a]</sup> From 16 February 2007 (the launch date of the sub-fund) to 31 December 2007.

<sup>[b]</sup> To 1 November 2011.

Past performance is not a guide to future performance.

The price of shares and the income from them can go down as well as up, and you may get back less than you invested.

# Fund summary

## Income

### Interest income per share

	Calendar year	Distributed	Reinvested
<b>Sterling (net)</b>		<b>p</b>	<b>p</b>
<b>Class 'A'</b>	2007	1.5532	1.5532
	2008	2.2424	2.2772
	2009	2.8796	2.9973
	2010	2.1208	2.2681
	2011 <sup>[a]</sup>	2.2980	2.4860
<b>Class 'C'</b>	2007	2.2580	n/a
	2008	3.3752	n/a
	2009	3.9780	n/a
	2010	3.3232	n/a
	2011 <sup>[a]</sup>	3.4952	n/a

<sup>[a]</sup> Up to final: ex-distribution date 1 November 2011;  
payment date 31 December 2011.

### Short reports

This Short Report is issued in accordance with the requirements of the Collective Investment Schemes sourcebook, as issued (and amended) by the Financial Services Authority. This Short Report does not contain the Financial Statements of the Prudential Managed Defensive Fund, and it is unaudited.

### Report and accounts

A copy of the Authorised Corporate Director's (ACD) Annual Investment Report and Financial Statements for Prudential Investment Funds (1), which incorporates all the sub-fund annual investment reports and audited financial statements is available free of charge on request from our website at [www.pru.co.uk/managersreports](http://www.pru.co.uk/managersreports) or by calling Customer Relations on 0845 783 5500. All literature provided will be in English.

## Other information

Mr Mark Thompson resigned as a Director of Prudential Unit Trusts Limited on 10 December 2010.

Mr John Warburton was appointed as a Director of Prudential Unit Trusts Limited on 28 June 2011.

Please note that, effective from 3 October 2011, State Street Bank and Trust Company has been assisting the Trustee in the performance of its function as Custodian of the Scheme Property.

The Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), the Trustee of the trust has transferred its Trustee and Depositary Services business to National Westminster Bank, which took effect on 28 October 2011.

As Trustee, the National Westminster Bank Plc has the same duties and responsibilities as RBS and this change of Trustee will have no impact on the way the trust is operated.

The information in this report is designed to enable shareholders to make an informed judgement on the activities of the fund during the year it covers and the results of those activities at the end of the year. For more information about the activities and performance of the fund during this and the previous year, please contact the Authorised Corporate Director.

### **Authorised Corporate Director (ACD)**

Prudential Unit Trusts Limited, Laurence Pountney Hill,  
London EC4R 0HH Telephone: 0845 783 5500  
(Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority)

### **Investment manager**

M&G Investment Management Limited,  
Laurence Pountney Hill, London EC4R 0HH  
(Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority)

### **Registrar**

International Financial Data Services (UK) Limited,  
IFDS House, St. Nicholas Lane, Basildon, Essex SS15 5FS  
(Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority)

### **Depository**

The Royal Bank of Scotland Plc, Trustee & Depository Services,  
The Broadstone, 50 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9UZ  
(Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority)

With effect from 28 October 2011,  
National Westminster Bank Plc, Trustee & Depository Services,  
The Broadstone, 50 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9LD  
(Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority)

### **Independent auditors**

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP,  
7 More London Riverside, London SE1 2RT

### **General information**

If you would like further details about any aspects of your investment please contact Customer Relations, PO Box 10866, Chelmsford, Essex CM99 2BX. Please remember to quote your name, customer number and sign any written communication to Prudential. Failure to provide this may affect your ability to transact with us. Alternatively, you can telephone us on 0845 783 5500. For security purposes and to improve the quality of our service, we may record and monitor telephone calls. You will require your customer number. Failure to provide this will affect your ability to transact with us.

'Prudential' is a trading name of Prudential Unit Trusts Limited and Prudential Personal Equity Plans Limited. This name is also used by other companies within the Prudential Group, which between them provide a range of financial products including life assurance, pensions, savings and investment products. Prudential Unit Trusts Limited and Prudential Personal Equity Plans Limited are registered in England and Wales under numbers 1796126 and 2059989 respectively. Registered Office at Laurence Pountney Hill, London EC4R 0HH. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.