



Synergy Personal pension

Making the most of your pension

Standard Life 



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Synergy Personal pension

You could easily live a third of your life in retirement – so it makes sense to plan for it financially. And the sooner you start saving for retirement, the better quality of life you can expect.

Planning a pension doesn't have to be complex, with the right advice. And with tax relief available on your contributions, it costs less than you might think.

If you're self-employed or in a job where you don't have a company pension, a Synergy Personal Pension could be for you. You'll get the combined benefit of tax relief on your contributions and your money grows tax-free until you retire.

With Standard Life, you get many investment choices, so you can be as adventurous or as conservative as you like. And you can switch your investments if your circumstances change.

Why choose Standard Life?

Standard Life is a leading provider of long-term savings and investments. Headquartered in Edinburgh and operating internationally, we've been in Ireland since 1834 and have helped generations of Irish customers plan for their future.

Global investment expertise

Standard Life Investments manage the majority of our funds. Based in Edinburgh, they are global active fund managers with a talented and experienced team of more than 300 investment professionals (at February 2010).

Your policy is protected

Your policy is covered by the UK's Financial Services Compensation Scheme*. This covers 90% of the value of your claim – with no upper limit. There's no equivalent Irish compensation scheme.

*See page 10

You have choice and flexibility

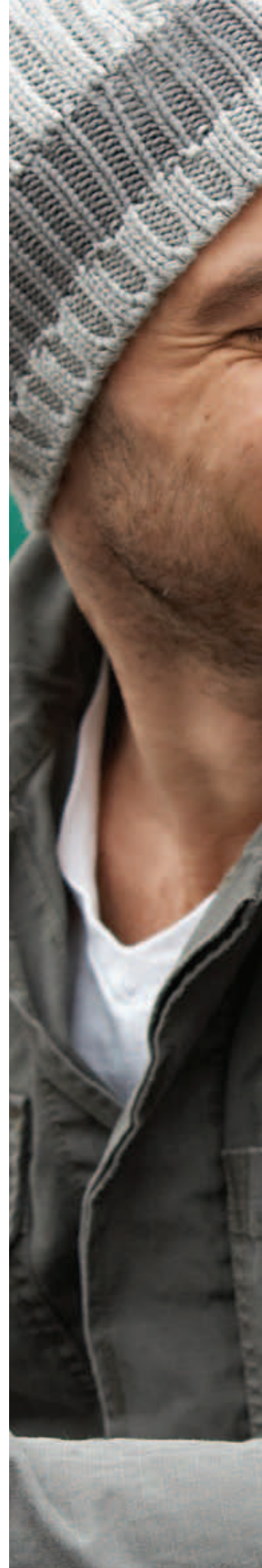
You can choose from a wide range of funds. You also have the option to invest in deposits, shares and direct property. You can make both regular and single contributions and you can increase, reduce, stop or restart your contributions.

Service is at hand

We'll send you regular information on your policy and will administer your policy.



And if you need any help, our customer service team are only a phone call away on (01) 639 7080





“I’m going to be investing for a long time, so I reckon it’s worth taking the time now to make sure I choose a company I can rely on.”

You decide how your money is invested

Paying into a pension is a long-term investment, so it's important you have a number of options. The Synergy Personal Pension offers:



“I want a pension that can change when I need it to. And I want to choose where my money’s invested, so that I’ve got a policy that I can feel confident about.”

Control and Choice

With Standard Life your investment can be as simple or as sophisticated as you like, offering you more control and choice over your investment.

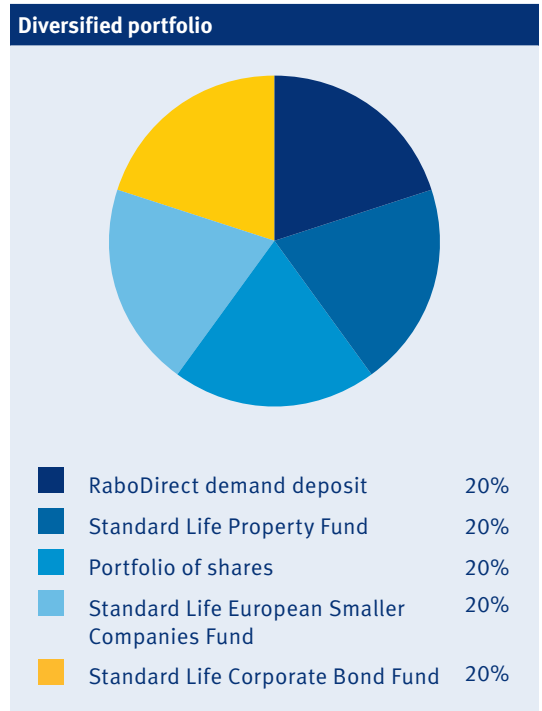
Our Synergy funds are all about choice. They give you a wide range of investment opportunities and you can choose from more than 30 funds.

With our self-directed options you can choose to invest in deposits, shares and direct property giving you the flexibility to select the right investment for you.

And...

You can combine all of this into a diversified portfolio.

Here's a sample:



Ask the experts first. This sample is not a recommendation. Because these investment options carry different levels of risk, we recommend that you talk to your financial adviser who'll be able to answer your questions and help decide what's right for you.



You can find more information in our Investment Options Guide (SYI01).

How do the tax benefits work?

Making the most of the tax benefits means more money in your pocket.

There are a number of important tax benefits on offer:

1. You can claim tax relief on your contributions
2. Your money grows tax-free until you retire
3. You can take part of your pension as a tax-free lump sum when you retire

Saving tax on your contributions

For every €100 invested, it would currently cost you just €59, assuming you pay tax at 41%.

$$\text{€59} + \text{€41} = \text{€100}$$

Cost to you **Cost to taxman** **Contribution**

And the more you contribute the more tax relief you could get. So if you want to contribute €500 per month it could cost you as little as €295.

$$\text{€295} + \text{€205} = \text{€500}$$

Cost to you **Cost to taxman** **Contribution**

Check out the table below to see what percentage of your earnings qualifies for this tax relief.

Your age now	% of your net relevant earning**
Under 30	15%
30 to 39	20%
40 to 49	25%
50 to 54	30%
55 to 59	35%
60 and over	40%

** For the 2011 tax year, net relevant earnings are subject to a ceiling of €115,000 for the purpose of calculating tax relief. These percentage limits represent a total figure, i.e. they include any contributions you may be making to other pension arrangements.

Flexible contribution options

You can make both regular and single contributions and you can increase, reduce, stop or restart your contributions. You can also transfer money from other personal pensions into your Synergy Personal pension.

- ▶ Monthly, quarterly and half-yearly contributions must be made by direct debit, while yearly payments can be made either by direct debit or cheque.

Regular contributions

How Often	Minimum regular contribution
Monthly	€175
Quarterly	€525
Half-yearly	€1,050
Yearly	€2,100

Single contributions and transfer payments

The minimum is €5,000 initially. You can top up with €2,000 or more. Single contributions or transfer payments can be paid by cheque.

The sooner you start, the more you'll have

Invest just €200 per month and watch how it grows

€200 per month...



These illustrations assume that contributions are invested on standard terms in our Managed Fund. We have assumed a rate of return of 6% each year. These figures are examples and are not guaranteed. The actual investment growth will depend on how your investments perform and may be worth more or less than shown here.

Information about Synergy

Personal pensions

It's your decision how you take your money on retirement

When you retire, you can choose to take your personal pension benefits as a lump sum, an approved retirement fund (ARF) or a traditional annuity.

With an ARF, **you can:**

- ▶ Keep control of your retirement fund
- ▶ Enjoy much wider investment choice
- ▶ Have greater freedom to withdraw some of your retirement fund whenever you need to

With a traditional annuity, if your income is just for your own lifetime, the money you used to buy the annuity will not be available to your family when you're gone.

As a general rule, you need to be between 60 and 75 years to take your pension benefits, but in certain circumstances it could be lower. Make sure you get financial advice when you are retiring.

Your policy is protected

Standard Life in Ireland operates as a branch of our UK parent company. This means that any policies taken out since 1 December 2001 are covered by the UK's Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) in the event that Standard Life is in default. So if you invest in a Standard Life pension or investment policy, **90% of the claim is covered**, without any upper limit.

You can find out more about the Financial Services Compensation Scheme at www.fscs.org.uk

There is no equivalent Irish compensation scheme.

For information on FSCS cover on investment options through the Synergy product range, see Your policy is protected (FSCSFAQ).

Important things to consider

Laws and tax rules may change in the future. The information here is based on our understanding of the situation in March 2011.

We recommend you get financial advice. You should not base your decision to invest solely on the information in this guide.



Warning: The value of this investment may go down as well as up

Warning: This investment may be affected by changes in currency exchange rates

Warning: The income from this investment may go down as well as up

Warning: The figures on page 09 are estimates only. They are not a reliable guide to the future performances of this investment

Find out more

Talk to your financial adviser for advice on how to plan for your financial future, or if you're ready to start, they'll give you the application form you need to set up your plan.

Call us on 01 639 7080

(Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm). Call charges may vary and calls may be recorded and/or monitored to help improve customer service.

www.standardlife.ie