



Principal Stability Fund Ratings Definitions

(Effective January 5, 2010)

A Standard & Poor's principal stability fund rating, also known as a "money market fund rating," is a forward-looking opinion about a fixed income fund's capacity to maintain stable principal (net asset value). When assigning a principal stability rating to a fund, Standard & Poor's analysis focuses primarily on the creditworthiness of the fund's investments and counterparties, and also its investments' maturity structure and management's ability and policies to maintain the fund's stable net asset value. Principal stability fund ratings are assigned to funds that seek to maintain a stable or an accumulating net asset value.

Generally, when faced with an unanticipated level of redemption requests during periods of high market stress, the manager of any fund may suspend redemptions for up to five business days or meet redemption requests with payments in-kind in lieu of cash. A temporary suspension of redemptions or meeting redemption requests with distributions in-kind does not constitute a failure to maintain stable net asset values. However, higher rated funds are expected to have stronger capacities to pay investor redemptions in cash during times of high market stress because they generally comprise shorter maturity and higher quality investments.

Principal stability fund ratings, or money market fund ratings, are identified by the 'm' suffix (e.g., 'AAAm') to distinguish the principal stability rating from a Standard & Poor's traditional issue or issuer credit rating. A traditional issue or issuer credit rating reflects Standard & Poor's view of a borrower's ability to meet its financial obligations. Principal stability fund ratings are not commentaries on yield levels.

AAAm

A fund rated 'AAAm' demonstrates extremely strong capacity to maintain principal stability and to limit exposure to principal losses due to credit risk. 'AAAm' is the highest principal stability fund rating assigned by Standard & Poor's.

AAm

A fund rated 'AAm' demonstrates very strong capacity to maintain principal stability and to limit exposure to principal losses due to credit risk. It differs from the highest-rated funds only to a small degree.

Am

A fund rated 'Am' demonstrates strong capacity to maintain principal stability and to limit exposure to principal losses due to credit risk, but is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than funds in higher-rated categories

BBBm

A fund rated 'BBBm' demonstrates adequate capacity to maintain principal stability and to limit exposure to principal losses due to credit risk. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a reduced capacity to maintain principal stability.

BBm

A fund rated 'BBm' demonstrates speculative characteristics and uncertain capacity to maintain principal stability. It is vulnerable to principal losses due to credit risk. While such funds will likely have some quality and protective characteristics, these may be outweighed by large uncertainties or major exposures to adverse conditions.

Dm

A fund rated 'Dm' has failed to maintain principal stability resulting in a realized or unrealized loss of principal.

G

The letter 'G' follows the rating symbol when a fund's portfolio consists primarily of direct U.S. government securities.

Plus (+) or minus (-)

The ratings may be modified by the addition of a plus (+) or minus (-) sign to show relative standing within the rating categories.

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