



# **International Fund Awards Methodology, Thailand**

Morningstar Methodology Paper  
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2023

# Morningstar International Fund Awards Methodology, Thailand

## **Statement of Purpose**

The objective of the quantitatively driven Morningstar International Fund Awards program is to recognise those funds and fund groups that have added the most value within the context of a relevant peer group for investors over the past year and over the longer-term. The program is distinct from the qualitative awards issued by Morningstar's manager research team (Awards for Investing Excellence).

The awards are annual, so we believe it is appropriate to emphasise a fund's one-year performance. However, we do not believe that it serves investors well to give awards to funds that have posted a strong one-year return, but have otherwise not delivered good results for investors. We also recognise that investors often use awards as a "buy" signal, and we do not wish to steer them to offerings that may not be good longer-term investments.

The awards methodology therefore emphasises the one-year period, but funds must also have delivered strong three-and five-year returns after adjusting for risk within the awards peer groups in order to obtain an award. Further, they must have been at least in the top half of their respective peer groups in at least three of the past five calendar years. We believe this combination will ensure that the awards are given to funds which have earned strong one-year results, and have also shown they have the ability to earn strong long-term returns without undue risk.

## **Types of Award**

There are three types of Morningstar Fund Award: Morningstar Category Awards, Retirement Mutual Fund Awards, and Morningstar Fund House Awards.

Morningstar Category Awards:

These awards are given to the funds with the best risk-adjusted performance within their Morningstar Categories or groupings of Morningstar Categories, subject to qualitative review.

Morningstar Retirement Mutual Fund Awards:

Retirement Mutual Funds, also known as RMF funds, are well-known and continued to grow their assets under management. Morningstar will give awards in this category to recognize funds that have added value over both the short- and long-term. Fund performance is evaluated within the Morningstar Categories.

Morningstar Fund House Awards:

These awards are given to the fund groups with the strongest performing fund line-ups on a risk adjusted basis. Fund performance is evaluated within the Morningstar Categories.

## **Eligible Universe**

Awards will be determined for each individual national fund market.

Only funds that are recorded in the Morningstar database as available for sale in a given market will be eligible to receive an award in that market.

For the Morningstar Category Awards only: In order to ensure Morningstar analysts can carry out effective qualitative checks for potential winners, only funds that have reported at least two complete portfolios to Morningstar between 1 September 2021 and 31 December 2022 are eligible for an award.

The following fund types are excluded from the universe: Insurance funds, closed-end funds. Currency-hedged share-classes of funds are also excluded.

The smallest 10% of funds in each category are excluded from the awards based on the latest June end 2022 portfolio size expressed in Baht. In lieu of this measure, analysts may also exclude funds with less than Baht 200 million in assets at 30 June 2022 or the nearest date for which assets are available.

## **Morningstar Category Awards Methodology**

### **Categories Eligible for Awards**

Equity:

- ▶ Thailand Equity Small/Mid-Cap
- ▶ Thailand Equity Large-Cap

Fixed Interest:

- ▶ Thailand Short Term Bond
- ▶ Thailand Mid/Long Term Bond

Morningstar Retirement Mutual Fund Awards

### **Categories Eligible for Awards**

- ▶ Retirement Mutual Fund – Equity (Includes equity funds labelled as Retirement Mutual Fund, or RMF, while funds in sector-focused categories are excluded)
- ▶ Retirement Mutual Fund – Fixed Income (Includes fixed income funds labelled as Retirement Mutual Fund, or RMF, except Money Market funds)

## Scoring System

Each fund in a relevant grouping will be scored as follows:

### Return Score = 80% of total score

One year: 30% of total score, based on 1-year return percentile rank in Morningstar Category

Three- and five-year: 50% of total score, of which

40% = 3-year return percentile rank in Morningstar Category

60% = 5-year return percentile rank in Morningstar Category

(Note: 3-year and 5-year scores are scaled to represent 40% and 60% of the long-term portion of the return score, respectively. The 3-year return score constitutes 20% of the total score, and the 5-year return score constitutes 30% of the total score.)

### Risk Score = 20% of total score

Of the risk score:

40% = 3-year Morningstar Risk percentile rank in Morningstar Category

60% = 5-year Morningstar Risk percentile rank in Morningstar Category

(Note: 3- and 5-year scores are scaled to represent 40% and 60% of the total risk score, respectively. The 3-year risk score constitutes 8% of the total score, and the five-year risk score constitutes 12% of the total score.)

Based on above weights, the effective weight of each year in the calculation is as follows, including both risk and return (figures are rounded to nearest whole number):

Past one year	48%
Second year out	18%
Third year out	18%
Fourth year out	8%
Fifth year out	8%

The weights are designed to place due emphasis on the most recent year given that the awards are annual in nature, but are also meant to favour those funds that have delivered risk-adjusted outperformance on a sustained basis over the longer term.

### **Qualitative Review**

Based on the above calculations, the 10 funds with the lowest scores in each Morningstar Awards Category will be reviewed by Morningstar's qualitative research analysts in that market.

The analysts will complete the following checks:

- ▶ All institutional share classes will be removed unless readily available to retail investors.
- ▶ Funds that are deemed inaccessible to local market investors will be excluded.
- ▶ If an analyst has reason to believe that a fund cannot continue to outperform, he will submit his concerns to the heads of Morningstar's Asian and European Manager Research team, and they can elect to remove the fund from consideration at their discretion.
- ▶ Any fund that is deemed to have deviated from its stated mandate will be removed from consideration.
- ▶ Any fund that has not outperformed its Morningstar category median in at least three of the past five calendar years will be removed from consideration unless Morningstar's qualitative analysts believe a fund has exceptional merit that the criteria fails to capture.

### **Award Selection**

Upon the completion of this review, the fund with the **lowest** score in each eligible Morningstar Category or grouping thereof will receive the award for that Morningstar Category or Category grouping.

## **Morningstar Fund House Awards**

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The Morningstar Fund House Awards recognise those fund families that have delivered sustained outperformance on a risk-adjusted basis across their fund line-ups.

### **Award Categories**

**Morningstar Best Domestic Equity Fund House:** Fund houses with at least five domestic equity funds with Morningstar Ratings available for sale in a given market are eligible.

**Morningstar Best Domestic Fixed-Income Fund House:** Fund houses with at least three domestic fixed-income funds with Morningstar Ratings available for sale in a given market are eligible. Money markets are not eligible for inclusion.

### **Eligible Funds**

In order to ensure that funds in consideration are comparable, only funds in the rated Morningstar Categories are eligible for scoring. As such, only funds in Equity Large-cap and Equity Small/Mid-cap categories are eligible for inclusion in Morningstar Best Domestic Equity Fund House Award.

Similarly, only funds in the Short Term Bond and Mid/Long Term Bond categories are eligible for inclusion in Morningstar Best Domestic Fixed-Income Fund House Award .

Only those funds with five-year Morningstar Ratings are eligible for inclusion in the scoring (see below). Thus, funds without five-year records or funds in unrated Morningstar Categories are excluded from the scoring process.

### **Scoring System**

For each of the above awards, Morningstar will calculate House Scores using the following methodology:

Determine the five-year Morningstar Risk-Adjusted Return (MRAR) for each share class of each fund run by a given house, and the percentile rank of that return score within its Morningstar Category.

Determine the average percentile rank of each *fund's* MRAR by taking the mean MRAR percentile rank of all its classes.

Determine the mean percentile rank of each fund house's MRAR by taking the mean of its funds' MRAR percentile ranks (the lower a group's mean percentile rank, the better its performance).

### **Qualitative Review**

Our qualitative analysts across Asia and Europe will review the scoring results and may disqualify a firm if there are extenuating circumstances. These might include (but are not limited to) the loss of a group of talented managers, substantial increases to fund expenses, non-availability of the house's funds to retail investors in the relevant market, or being taken over by another group. Each disqualification must be approved by the heads of Morningstar's Asian and European Manager Research team. The review is intended to prevent giving an award on the basis of performance that we believe is unlikely to be repeated due to structural factors.

### **Awards Selection**

The remaining fund firms with the lowest score in each of the above groups will receive the relevant Morningstar Fund House Award. There will only be one award in each of the categories listed above. If there are fewer than three eligible groups in any of these categories, no award will be made in that category.