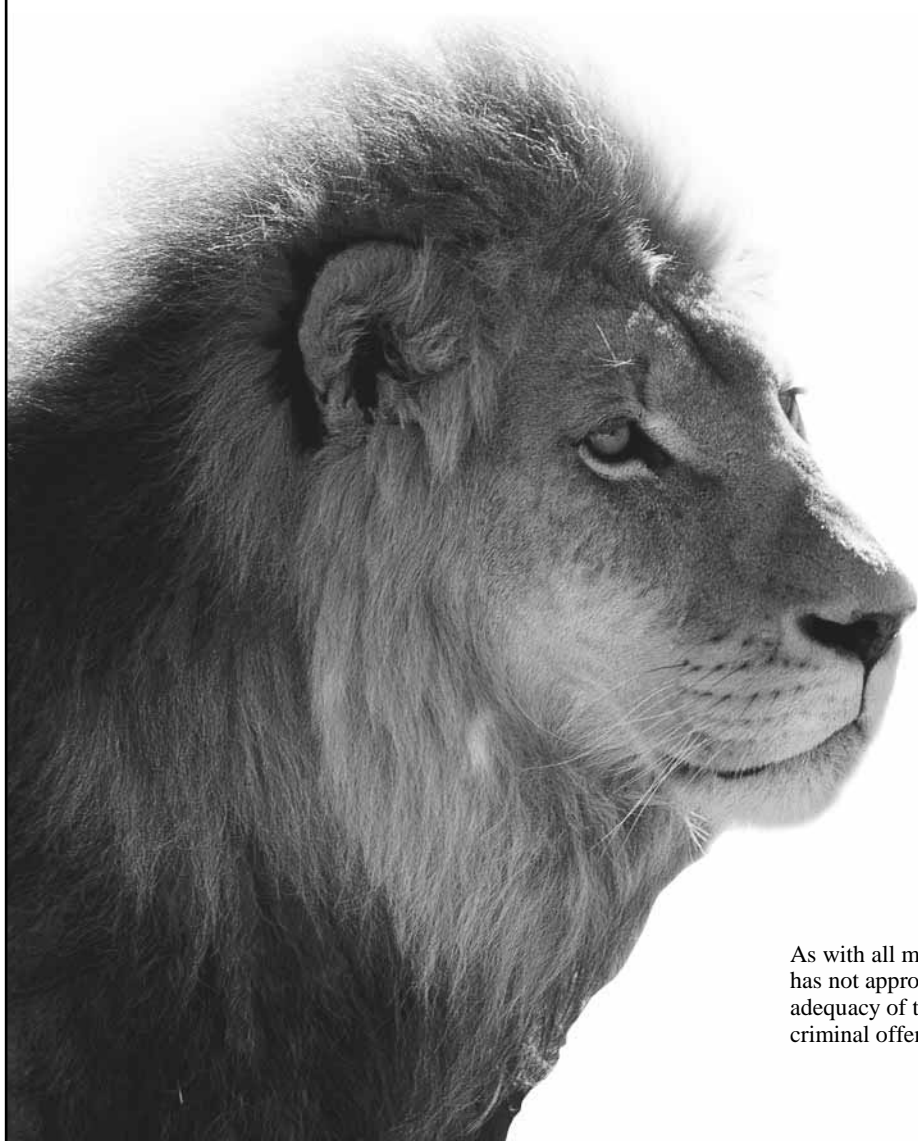


# Quality Bond Portfolio

A Series of Dreyfus Variable Investment Fund

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**PROSPECTUS** May 1, 2009



As with all mutual funds, the Securities and Exchange Commission has not approved or disapproved these securities or passed upon the adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.



BNY MELLON  
ASSET MANAGEMENT

 **Dreyfus**

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*See back cover.*

# The Fund

## INTRODUCTION

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Fund shares are offered only to separate accounts established by insurance companies to fund variable annuity contracts (VA contracts) and variable life insurance policies (VLI policies). Individuals may not purchase shares directly from, or place sell orders directly with, the fund. The VA contracts and the VLI policies are described in the separate prospectuses issued by the participating insurance companies, over which the fund assumes no responsibility. Conflicts may arise between the interests of VA contract holders and VLI policyholders (collectively, policyowners). The board will monitor events to identify any material conflicts and, if such conflicts arise, determine what action, if any, should be taken.

The fund currently offers two classes of shares: Initial shares and Service shares. Policyowners should consult the applicable prospectus of the separate account of the participating insurance company to determine which class of fund shares may be purchased by the separate account.

While the fund's investment objectives and policies may be similar to those of other funds managed by the investment adviser(s), the fund's investment results may be higher or lower than, and may not be comparable to, those of the other funds.

## GOAL AND APPROACH

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The fund seeks to maximize total return, consisting of capital appreciation and current income. To pursue this goal, the fund normally invests at least 80% of its assets in bonds, including corporate bonds, debentures, notes, mortgage-related securities, collateralized mortgage obligations (CMOs), asset-backed securities, convertible debt obligations, preferred stocks, convertible preferred stocks, municipal obligations and zero coupon bonds, that, when purchased, are rated A or better or are the unrated equivalent as determined by Dreyfus, and in securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or its agencies or instrumentalities, including Treasury inflation-protection securities (TIPS).

The fund also may invest in:

- high grade commercial paper of U.S. issuers
- certificates of deposit, time deposits and bankers' acceptances
- fixed-income securities rated lower than A (but not lower than B), at the time of purchase, or the unrated equivalent as determined by Dreyfus
- municipal obligations and zero coupon securities

The fund may invest up to 10% of its net assets in bonds issued by foreign issuers that are denominated in foreign currencies, and up to 20% of its net assets in bonds issued by foreign issuers whether denominated in U.S. dollars or in a foreign currency.

The fund has no limit with respect to its portfolio maturity or duration.

The fund may, but is not required to, use derivatives, such as options, futures, and options on futures (including those relating to securities, indexes, and interest rates), forward contracts and swaps (including

credit default swaps on corporate bonds and asset-backed securities), as a substitute for investing directly in an underlying asset, to manage interest rate risk, to increase returns, or as part of a hedging strategy. The fund may enter into swap agreements, such as credit default swaps, which can be used to transfer the credit risk of a security without actually transferring ownership of the security or to customize exposure to particular corporate credit. To enhance current income, the fund also may engage in a series of purchase and sale contracts or forward roll transactions in which the fund sells a mortgage-related security, for example, to a financial institution and simultaneously agrees to purchase a similar security from the institution at a later date at an agreed-upon price.

## MAIN RISKS

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The fund's principal risks are discussed below. An investment in the fund is not a bank deposit. It is not insured or guaranteed by the FDIC or any other government agency. It is not a complete investment program. The value of your investment in the fund will fluctuate, sometimes dramatically, which means you could lose money.

- *Interest rate risk.* Prices of bonds tend to move inversely with changes in interest rates. Typically, a rise in rates will adversely affect bond prices and, accordingly, the fund's share price. The longer the effective maturity and duration of the fund's portfolio, the more the fund's share price is likely to react to interest rates.
- *Call risk.* Some bonds give the issuer the option to call, or redeem, the bonds before their maturity date. If an issuer "calls" its bond during a time of declining interest rates, the fund might have to reinvest the proceeds in an investment offering a lower yield, and therefore might not benefit from any increase in value as a result of declining interest rates. During periods of market illiquidity or rising interest rates, prices of "callable" issues are subject to increased price fluctuation.
- *Credit risk.* Failure of an issuer to make timely interest or principal payments, or a decline or perception of a decline in the credit quality of a bond, can cause a bond's price to fall, potentially lowering the fund's share price. High yield ("junk") bonds involve greater credit risk, including the risk of default, than investment grade bonds, and are considered predominantly speculative with respect to the issuer's ability to make principal and interest payments. The prices of high yield bonds can fall dramatically in response to bad news about the issuer or its industry, or the economy in general.
- *Market risk.* The market value of a security may decline due to general market conditions that are not specifically related to a particular company, such as real or perceived adverse economic conditions, changes in the outlook for corporate earnings, changes in interest or currency rates or adverse investor sentiment generally. A security's market value also may decline because of factors that affect a particular industry or industries, such as labor shortages or increased production costs and competitive conditions within an industry.
- *Liquidity risk.* When there is little or no active trading market for specific types of securities, it can become more difficult to sell the securities at or near their perceived value. In such a market, the value of such securities and the fund's share price may fall dramatically, even during periods of declining interest rates. Liquidity risk also exists when a particular derivative instrument is difficult to purchase or sell. If a derivative transaction is particularly large or if the relevant market is illiquid (as is the case with many privately negotiated derivatives, including swap agreements), it may not be possible to initiate a transaction or liquidate a position at an advantageous time or price. Investments in foreign securities tend to have greater exposure to liquidity risk than domestic securities.
- *Market sector risk.* The fund's overall risk level will depend on the market sectors in which the fund is invested and the current interest rate, liquidity and credit quality of such sectors. The fund may significantly overweight or underweight certain companies, industries or market sectors, which may cause the fund's performance to be more or less sensitive to developments affecting those companies, industries or sectors.
- *U.S. government securities risk.* A security backed by the U.S. Treasury or the full faith and credit of the United States is guaranteed only as to the timely payment of interest and principal when held to maturity, but the market prices for such securities are not guaranteed and will fluctuate. Not all U.S. government obligations are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Treasury. Certain U.S. government agency securities are backed by the right of the issuer to borrow from the U.S. Treasury, or are supported only by the credit of the issuing agency or instrumentality, and in some cases there may be some risk of default by the issuer. In addition, because many types of U.S. government

obligations trade actively outside the United States, their prices may rise and fall as changes in global economic conditions affect the demand for these securities.

- *Inflation-indexed security risk.* Interest payments on inflation-indexed securities can be unpredictable and will vary as the principal and/or interest is periodically adjusted based on the rate of inflation. If the index measuring inflation falls, the interest payable on these securities will be reduced. The U.S. Treasury has guaranteed that in the event of a drop in prices, it would repay the par amount of its inflation-indexed securities. Inflation-indexed securities issued by corporations generally do not guarantee repayment of principal. Any increase in the principal amount of an inflation-indexed security will be considered taxable ordinary income, even though investors do not receive their principal until maturity. As a result, the fund may be required to make annual distributions to shareholders that exceed the cash the fund received, which may cause the fund to liquidate certain investments when it is not advantageous to do so. Also, if the principal value of an inflation-indexed security is adjusted downward due to deflation, amounts previously distributed may be characterized in some circumstances as a return of capital.
- *Prepayment and extension risk.* When interest rates fall, the principal on mortgage-backed and certain asset-backed securities may be prepaid. The loss of higher yielding underlying mortgages and the reinvestment of proceeds at lower interest rates can reduce the fund's potential price gain in response to falling interest rates, reduce the fund's yield, or cause the fund's share price to fall. When interest rates rise, the effective duration of the fund's mortgage-related and other asset-backed securities may lengthen due to a drop in prepayments of the underlying mortgages or other assets. This is known as extension risk and would increase the fund's sensitivity to rising interest rates and its potential for price declines.
- *Foreign investment risk.* Special risks associated with investments in foreign companies include exposure to currency fluctuations, less liquidity, less developed or less efficient trading markets, lack of comprehensive company information, political instability and differing auditing and legal standards.
- *Foreign currency risk.* Investments in foreign currencies are subject to the risk that those currencies will decline in value relative to the U.S. dollar, or in the case of hedged positions, that the U.S. dollar will decline relative to the currency being hedged. Currency rates in foreign countries may fluctuate significantly over short periods of time. A decline in the value of foreign currencies relative to the U.S. dollar will reduce the value of securities held by the fund and denominated in those currencies. Foreign currencies are also subject to risks caused by inflation, interest rates, budget deficits and low savings rates, political factors and government control.
- *Derivatives risk.* A small investment in derivatives could have a potentially large impact on the fund's performance. The use of derivatives involves risks different from, or possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in the underlying assets. Derivatives can be highly volatile, illiquid and difficult to value, and there is the risk that changes in the value of a derivative held by the fund will not correlate with the underlying instruments or the fund's other investments. Derivative instruments also involve the risk that a loss may be sustained as a result of the failure of the counterparty to the derivative instruments to make required payments or otherwise comply with the derivative instruments' terms. Credit default swaps and similar instruments involve greater risks than if the fund had invested in the reference obligation directly, since, in addition to general market risks, they are subject to illiquidity risk, counterparty risk and credit risk.

Additionally, some derivatives the fund may use may involve economic leverage, which could increase the volatility of these instruments as they may increase or decrease in value more than the underlying security, index, futures contracts or other economic variable. The fund may be required to

segregate permissible liquid assets to cover its obligations relating to its purchase of derivative instruments.

- *Leverage risk.* The use of leverage, such as borrowing money to purchase securities, engaging in reverse repurchase agreements, lending portfolio securities and engaging in forward commitment transactions may magnify the fund's gains or losses.
- *Other potential risks.* The fund may lend its portfolio securities to brokers, dealers and other financial institutions. In connection with such loans, the fund will receive collateral from the borrower equal to at least 100% of the value of loaned securities. If the borrower of the securities fails financially, there could be delays in recovering the loaned securities or in exercising rights to the collateral.

Under adverse market conditions, the fund could invest some or all of its assets in U.S. Treasury securities and money market securities. Although the fund would do this for temporary defensive purposes, it could reduce the benefit from any upswing in the market. During such periods, the fund may not achieve its investment objective.

At times, the fund may engage in short-term trading, which could produce higher transaction costs. The fund's forward roll transactions will increase its portfolio turnover rate.

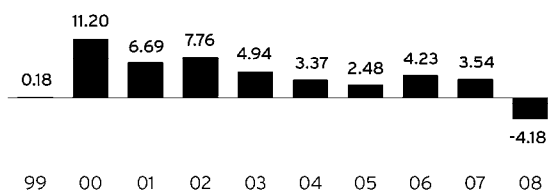
The participating insurance companies and their separate accounts are the shareholders of the fund. From time to time, a shareholder may own a substantial number of fund shares. The sale of a large number of shares could hurt the fund's net asset value.

## PAST PERFORMANCE

The following bar chart and table provide some indication of the risks of investing in the fund. The bar chart shows changes in the performance of the fund's Initial shares from year to year. The table compares the average annual total returns of the fund's shares to those of a broad measure of market performance. The fund's past performance is no guarantee of future results. All returns assume reinvestment of dividends and distributions.

Performance information reflects the fund's expenses only and does not reflect the fees and charges imposed by participating insurance companies under their VA contracts or VLI policies. Because these fees and charges will reduce total return, policyowners should consider them when evaluating and comparing the fund's performance. Policyowners should consult the prospectus for their contract or policy for more information.

Year-by-year total returns as of 12/31 each year (%)



Best Quarter (Q4, 2000): 4.30%. Worst Quarter (Q2, 2004): -3.34%.

Average annual total returns as of 12/31/08

	1 Year	5 Years	10 Years
<b>Initial Shares</b>	<b>-4.18%</b>	<b>1.84%</b>	<b>3.95%</b>
<b>Service Shares*</b>	<b>-4.46%</b>	<b>1.56%</b>	<b>3.73%</b>
<b>Barclays Capital U.S. Aggregate Bond Index</b>	<b>5.24%</b>	<b>4.65%</b>	<b>5.63%</b>

\*For the fund's Service shares, periods prior to 12/31/00 (commencement of initial offering of Service shares) reflect the performance of the fund's Initial shares. Such performance figures have not been adjusted to reflect the higher operating expenses of the Service shares; if these expenses had been reflected, such performance would have been lower.

## EXPENSES

Investors using this fund to fund a VA contract or VLI policy will pay certain fees and expenses in connection with the fund, which are described in the table below. Annual fund operating expenses are paid out of fund assets, so their effect is included in the fund's share price. As with the performance information given previously, these figures do not reflect any fees or charges imposed by participating insurance companies under their VA contracts or VLI policies.

	Initial Shares	Service Shares
<b>Annual fund operating expenses</b> <i>(paid each year as a % of the value of your investment)</i>		
Management fees	.65%	.65%
Distribution (12b-1) fees*	none	.25%
Other expenses	.11%	.11%
<b>Total annual fund operating expenses</b>	<b>0.76%</b>	<b>1.01%</b>

*\*Because 12b-1 fees are paid on an ongoing basis out of fund assets attributable to Service shares, over time such fees will increase the cost of an investment in Service shares and could cost investors more than paying other types of sales charges.*

## EXAMPLE

The Example below is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. The Example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the fund for the time periods indicated. The Example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the fund's operating expenses remain the same. The Example does not reflect fees and expenses incurred under VA contracts and VLI policies; if they were reflected, the figures in the Example would be higher. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
<b>Initial Shares</b>	<b>\$78</b>	<b>\$243</b>	<b>\$422</b>	<b>\$942</b>
<b>Service Shares</b>	<b>\$103</b>	<b>\$322</b>	<b>\$558</b>	<b>\$1,236</b>

## MANAGEMENT

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### **Investment adviser**

The investment adviser for the fund is The Dreyfus Corporation (Dreyfus), 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166. Founded in 1947, Dreyfus manages approximately \$338 billion in approximately 193 mutual fund portfolios. For the past fiscal year, the fund paid Dreyfus a management fee at the annual rate of 0.65% of the fund's average daily net assets. A discussion regarding the basis for the board's approving the fund's investment advisory agreement with Dreyfus is available in the fund's semi-annual report for the six-month period ended June 30, 2008. Dreyfus is the primary mutual fund business of The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation (BNY Mellon), a global financial services company focused on helping clients move and manage their financial assets, operating in 34 countries and serving more than 100 markets. BNY Mellon is a leading provider of financial services for institutions, corporations and high-net-worth individuals, providing asset and wealth management, asset servicing, issuer services, and treasury services through a worldwide client-focused team. BNY Mellon has more than \$23 trillion in assets under custody and administration and \$1.1 trillion in assets under management, and it services more than \$13 trillion in outstanding debt. Additional information is available at [www.bnymellon.com](http://www.bnymellon.com).

The Dreyfus asset management philosophy is based on the belief that discipline and consistency are important to investment success. For each fund, Dreyfus seeks to establish clear guidelines for portfolio management and to be systematic in making decisions. This approach is designed to provide each fund with a distinct, stable identity.

Peter Vaream and David Bowser are the fund's co-primary portfolio managers, positions they have held since July 2008. Mr. Vaream has been employed by Dreyfus since April 2008 and also is a senior portfolio manager for Active Core Fixed Income Strategies at Standish Mellon Asset Management Company LLC (Standish), a subsidiary of BNY Mellon and an affiliate of Dreyfus, which he joined in 2007. Prior thereto, he managed a variety of fixed income products at MFS Investment Management. Mr. Bowser has been employed by Dreyfus since July 2006 and also is a portfolio manager for Active Core Fixed Income Strategies at Standish, which he joined in 2000.

The fund's Statement of Additional Information (SAI) provides additional portfolio manager information including compensation, other accounts managed and ownership of fund shares.

## **Distributor**

MBSC Securities Corporation (MBSC), a wholly owned subsidiary of Dreyfus, serves as distributor of the fund and for the other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds. Rule 12b-1 fees and shareholder services fees, as applicable, are paid to MBSC for financing the sale and distribution of fund share and for providing shareholder account service and maintenance, respectively. Dreyfus or MBSC may provide cash payments out of its own resources to financial intermediaries that sell shares of funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds or provide other services. Such payments are separate from any sales charges, 12b-1 fees and/or shareholder services fees or other expenses that may be paid by a fund to those intermediaries. Because those payments are not made by fund shareholders or the fund, the fund's total expense ratio will not be affected by any such payments. These payments may be made to intermediaries, including affiliates, that provide shareholder servicing, sub-administration, recordkeeping and/or sub-transfer agency services, marketing support and/or access to sales meetings, sales representatives and management representatives of the financial intermediary. Cash compensation also may be paid from Dreyfus' or MBSC's own resources to intermediaries for inclusion of a fund on a sales list, including a preferred or select sales list or in other sales programs. These payments sometimes are referred to as "revenue sharing." From time to time, Dreyfus or MBSC also may provide cash or non-cash compensation to financial intermediaries or their representatives in the form of occasional gifts; occasional meals, tickets or other entertainment; support for due diligence trips; educational conference sponsorship; support for recognition programs; and other forms of cash or non-cash compensation permissible under broker-dealer regulations. In some cases, these payments or compensation may create an incentive for a financial intermediary or its employees to recommend or sell shares of the fund to you. Please contact your financial representative for details about any payments they or their firm may receive in connection with the sale of fund shares or the provision of services to the fund.

## **Code of ethics**

The fund, Dreyfus and MBSC have each adopted a code of ethics that permits its personnel, subject to such code, to invest in securities, including securities that may be purchased or held by the fund. Each code of ethics restricts the personal securities transactions of employees, and requires portfolio managers and other investment personnel to comply with the code's preclearance and disclosure procedures. The primary purpose of the respective codes is to ensure that personal trading by employees does not disadvantage any of the firms' other clients.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

These financial highlights describe the performance of the fund's shares for the fiscal periods indicated. "Total return" shows how much your investment in the fund would have increased (or decreased) during each period, assuming you had reinvested all dividends and distributions. These financial highlights have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, whose report, along with the fund's financial statements, is included in the annual report, which is available upon request. Keep in mind that fees and charges imposed by participating insurance companies, which are not reflected in the tables, would reduce the investment returns that are shown.

Initial Shares	Year Ended December 31,				
	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
<b>Per Share Data (\$):</b>					
Net asset value, beginning of period	11.08	11.25	11.29	11.42	11.50
Investment Operations:					
Investment income--net <sup>a</sup>	.51	.53	.49	.39	.37
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(.96)	(.16)	(.02)	(.11)	.01
Total from Investment Operations	(.45)	.37	.47	.28	.38
Distributions:					
Dividends from investment income--net	(.52)	(.54)	(.51)	(.41)	(.46)
Net asset value, end of period	10.11	11.08	11.25	11.29	11.42
<b>Total Return (%)</b>	<b>(4.18)</b>	<b>3.54</b>	<b>4.23</b>	<b>2.48</b>	<b>3.37</b>
<b>Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):</b>					
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	.76	.77	.75	.75	.74
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets	.76 <sup>b</sup>	.72	.63	.60	.74
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets	4.71	4.78	4.43	3.45	3.30
Portfolio Turnover Rate <sup>c</sup>	391.87	446.13	507.83	504.21	819.75
Net Assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)	100,396	120,446	145,490	158,999	171,424

<sup>a</sup> Based on average shares outstanding at each month end.

<sup>b</sup> Expense waivers and/or reimbursements amounted to less than .01%.

<sup>c</sup> The portfolio turnover rates excluding mortgage dollar roll transactions for the period ended December 31, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005 and 2004, were 142.10%, 219.54%, 262.26%, 393.37% and 761.92%, respectively.

Year Ended December 31,

Service Shares	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
<b>Per Share Data (\$):</b>					
Net asset value, beginning of period	11.04	11.21	11.25	11.38	11.48
Investment Operations:					
Investment income--net <sup>a</sup>	.48	.51	.46	.36	.35
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(.96)	(.17)	(.02)	(.11)	(.01)
Total from Investment Operations	(.48)	.34	.44	.25	.34
Distributions:					
Dividends from investment income--net	(.49)	(.51)	(.48)	(.38)	(.44)
Net asset value, end of period	10.07	11.04	11.21	11.25	11.38
<b>Total Return (%)</b>	<b>(4.46)</b>	<b>3.31</b>	<b>3.90</b>	<b>2.26</b>	<b>3.05</b>
<b>Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):</b>					
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	1.01	1.02	1.00	.99	.99
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets	1.01 <sup>b</sup>	.97	.88	.84	.99
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets	4.46	4.51	4.17	3.21	3.06
Portfolio Turnover Rate <sup>c</sup>	391.87	446.13	507.83	504.21	819.75
Net Assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)	33,105	44,035	41,363	47,757	55,585

*a* Based on average shares outstanding at each month end.

*b* Expense waivers and/or reimbursements amounted to less than .01%.

*c* The portfolio turnover rates excluding mortgage dollar roll transactions for the period ended December 31, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005 and 2004, were 142.10%, 219.54%, 262.26%, 393.37% and 761.92%, respectively.

# Your Investment

## SHAREHOLDER GUIDE

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### **Buying/Selling shares**

**Fund shares may be purchased** or sold (redeemed) by separate accounts of participating insurance companies. Policyowners should consult the prospectus of the separate account of the participating insurance company for more information about buying or selling fund shares.

**The price for fund shares** is the net asset value per share (NAV) of the relevant class, which is generally calculated as of the close of trading on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) (usually 4:00 p.m. Eastern time) on days the NYSE is open for regular business. Purchase and sale orders from separate accounts received in proper form by the participating insurance company on a given business day are priced at the NAV calculated on such day, provided that the orders are received by the fund in proper form on the next business day. The participating insurance company is responsible for properly transmitting purchase and sale orders.

**When calculating NAVs**, Dreyfus values equity investments on the basis of market quotations or official closing prices. Dreyfus generally values fixed income investments based on values supplied by an independent pricing service approved by the fund's board. The pricing service's procedures are reviewed under the general supervision of the board. If market quotations or prices from a pricing service are not readily available, or are determined not to reflect accurately fair value, the fund may value those investments at fair value as determined in accordance with procedures approved by the fund's board. Fair value of investments may be determined by the fund's board, its pricing committee or its valuation committee in good faith using such information as it deems appropriate under the circumstances. Under certain circumstances, the fair value of foreign equity securities will be provided by an independent pricing service. Using fair value to price investments may result in a value that is different from a security's most recent closing price and from the prices used by other mutual funds to calculate their net asset values. Funds that seek tax-exempt income are not recommended for purchase in IRAs or other qualified retirement plans. Foreign securities held by a fund may trade on days when the fund does not calculate its NAV and thus may affect the fund's NAV on days when investors have no access to the fund.

Investments in certain types of thinly traded securities may provide short-term traders arbitrage opportunities with respect to the fund's shares. For example, arbitrage opportunities may exist when trading in a portfolio security or securities is halted and does not resume, or the market on which such securities are traded closes before the fund calculates its NAV. If short-term investors in the fund were able to take advantage of these arbitrage opportunities, they could dilute the NAV of fund shares held by long-term investors. Portfolio valuation policies can serve to reduce arbitrage opportunities available to short-term traders, but there is no assurance that such valuation policies will prevent dilution of the fund's NAV by short-term traders. While the fund has a policy regarding frequent trading, it too may not be completely effective to prevent short-term NAV arbitrage trading, particularly in regard to omnibus accounts. Please see below for further information about the fund's frequent trading policy.

**The fund is designed for long-term investors.** Frequent purchases, redemptions and exchanges may disrupt portfolio management strategies and harm fund performance by diluting the value of fund shares and increasing brokerage and administrative costs. As a result, Dreyfus and the fund's board have adopted a policy of discouraging excessive trading, short-term market timing and other abusive trading practices (frequent trading) that could adversely affect the fund or its operations. Dreyfus and the fund will not enter into arrangements with any person or group to permit frequent trading.

**The fund reserves the right to:**

- change its minimum or maximum investment amounts
- change or discontinue its exchange privilege, or temporarily suspend the privilege during unusual market conditions
- delay sending out redemption proceeds for up to seven days (generally applies only during unusual market conditions or in cases of very large redemptions or excessive trading)
- “redeem in kind,” or make payments in securities rather than cash, if the amount redeemed is large enough to affect fund operations (for example, if it exceeds 1% of the fund’s assets)
- refuse any purchase or exchange request, including those from any participating insurance company, individual or group who, in Dreyfus’ view, is likely to engage in frequent trading

**Transactions in fund shares** are processed by the participating insurance companies using omnibus accounts that aggregate the trades of multiple policyowners. Dreyfus’ ability to monitor the trading activity of these policyowners is limited because their individual transactions in fund shares are not disclosed to the fund. Accordingly, Dreyfus relies to a significant degree on the participating insurance company to detect and deter frequent trading. The agreement with the participating insurance company includes obligations to comply with all applicable federal and state laws. All participating insurance companies have been sent written reminders of their obligations under the agreements, specifically highlighting rules relating to trading fund shares. Further, all participating insurance companies have been requested in writing to notify Dreyfus immediately if, for any reason, they cannot meet their commitment to make fund shares available in accordance with the terms of the prospectus and relevant rules and regulations.

Dreyfus supplements the surveillance processes in place at participating insurance companies by monitoring total purchases and redemptions of fund shares on a periodic basis. If Dreyfus identifies patterns that may be indicative of frequent trading of large amounts, Dreyfus contacts the participating insurance company for assistance in disaggregating selected omnibus trades into their component parts. When this process identifies multiple roundtrips (i.e., an investment that is substantially liquidated within 60 days), Dreyfus instructs the participating insurance company to temporarily or permanently bar such policyowner’s future purchases of fund shares if Dreyfus concludes the policyowner is likely to engage in frequent trading. Dreyfus also may instruct the participating insurance company to apply these restrictions across all accounts under common ownership, control or perceived affiliation. In all instances, Dreyfus seeks to make these determinations to the best of its abilities in a manner that it believes is consistent with shareholder interests.

In addition to applying restrictions on future purchases or exchanges, Dreyfus or the participating insurance company may cancel or reverse the purchase or exchange on the business day following the transaction if the participating insurance company’s surveillance system identifies the account as one that is likely to engage in frequent trading. Dreyfus may also instruct the participating insurance company to cancel or reverse the purchase or exchange on the following business day if the trade represents a significant amount of the fund’s assets and Dreyfus has concluded that the account is likely to engage in frequent trading.

To the extent that the fund significantly invests in foreign securities traded on markets that close before the fund calculates its NAV, events that influence the value of these foreign securities may occur after the close of these foreign markets and before the fund calculates its NAV. As a result, certain policyowners may seek to trade fund shares in an effort to benefit from their understanding of the value of these foreign securities at the time the fund calculates its NAV (referred to as price arbitrage). This type of frequent trading may dilute the value of fund shares held by other policyowners. The fund has adopted procedures

designed to adjust closing market prices of foreign equity securities under certain circumstances to reflect what it believes to be their fair value.

Although the fund's frequent trading and fair valuation policies and procedures are designed to discourage market timing and excessive trading, none of these tools alone, nor all of them together, completely eliminates the potential for frequent trading.

## DISTRIBUTIONS AND TAXES

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**The fund earns dividends, interest** and other income from its investments, and distributes this income (less expenses) to shareholders as dividends. The fund also realizes capital gains from its investments, and distributes these gains (less any losses) to shareholders as capital gain distributions. The fund normally pays dividends monthly and distributes capital gains annually. Fund dividends and capital gain distributions will be reinvested in the fund unless the participating insurance company instructs otherwise.

Since the fund's shareholders are the participating insurance companies and their separate accounts, the tax treatment of dividends and distributions will depend on the tax status of the participating insurance company. Accordingly, no discussion is included as to the federal personal income tax consequences to policyowners. For this information, policyowners should consult the prospectus of the separate account of the participating insurance company or their tax advisers.

Participating insurance companies should consult their tax advisers about federal, state and local tax consequences.

## EXCHANGE PRIVILEGE

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**Policyowners may exchange shares** of a class for shares of other funds offered by the VA contracts or VLI policies through the insurance company separate accounts subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the prospectuses of such VA contracts or VLI policies. Policyowners should refer to the applicable insurance company prospectus for more information on exchanging fund shares.

# For More Information

## **Dreyfus Variable Investment Fund**

### **Quality Bond Portfolio**

More information on this fund is available free upon request, including the following:

#### **Annual/Semiannual Report**

Describes the fund's performance, lists portfolio holdings and contains a letter from the fund's manager discussing recent market conditions, economic trends and fund strategies that significantly affected the fund's performance during the last fiscal year. The fund's most recent annual and semiannual reports are available at [www.dreyfus.com](http://www.dreyfus.com).

#### **Statement of Additional Information (SAI)**

Provides more details about the fund and its policies. A current SAI is available at [www.dreyfus.com](http://www.dreyfus.com) and is on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The SAI is incorporated by reference (is legally considered part of this prospectus).

#### **Portfolio Holdings**

Dreyfus funds generally disclose their complete schedule of portfolio holdings monthly with a 30-day lag at [www.dreyfus.com](http://www.dreyfus.com) under Mutual Fund Center – Dreyfus Mutual Funds – Mutual Fund Total Holdings. Complete holdings as of the end of the calendar quarter are disclosed 15 days after the end of such quarter. Dreyfus money market funds generally disclose their complete schedule of holdings daily. The schedule of holdings for a fund will remain on the website until the fund files its Form N-Q or Form N-CSR for the period that includes the dates of the posted holdings.

A complete description of the fund's policies and procedures with respect to the disclosure of the fund's portfolio securities is available in the fund's SAI.

To obtain information:

**By telephone** Call 1-800-554-4611 or 516-338-3300

**By mail** Write to:

The Dreyfus Family of Funds  
144 Glenn Curtiss Boulevard  
Uniondale, NY 11556-0144  
Attn: Institutional Services Department

**On the Internet** Text-only versions of certain fund documents can be viewed online or downloaded from:

**SEC** <http://www.sec.gov>

**Dreyfus** <http://www.dreyfus.com>

You can also obtain copies, after paying a duplicating fee, by visiting the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC (for information, call 1-202-551-8090) or by E-mail request to [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov), or by writing to the SEC's Public Reference Section, Washington, DC 20549-0102.

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