

# Shield® Level Annuities Product Suite

## Step Rate Edge May Help Turn a Down Market Into Positive Performance

### How to make the most of volatile markets

When was the last time you felt comfortable during volatile markets? **Shield Options with Step Rate Edge** is a strategy designed to help you keep your plans for retirement on track and is available with the Shield® Level Annuities Product Suite.

### What is Step Rate Edge?

Step Rate Edge credits a predetermined percentage of growth, called the Edge Rate, that gives a portion of your portfolio the opportunity to increase – even in certain down markets. At the end of the term, the Edge Rate will be credited if index performance is greater than or equal to the Shield Rate, which is your chosen level of downside protection.<sup>1</sup>

If negative index performance exceeds the Shield Rate at the end of the term, the Edge Rate doesn't apply and your Performance Rate will reflect any negative index performance in excess of your chosen Shield Rate.



Brighthouse Shield® Level II 6-Year Annuity, Brighthouse Shield® Level II 3-Year Annuity, and Brighthouse Shield® Level II Advisory Annuity are collectively referred to as "Shield® Level Annuities," "Shield® Level II Annuities," "Shield® Annuities," or "Shield® II Annuities." Brighthouse Shield Level Pay Plus® II Annuity and Brighthouse Shield Level Pay Plus® II Advisory Annuity are collectively referred to as "Shield Level Pay Plus® Annuities" or "Shield Level Pay Plus® II Annuities." In this material, Shield Level Annuities and Shield Level Pay Plus Annuities are collectively referred to as "Shield® Level Annuities Product Suite" or "Shield® Level Suite Annuities."

<sup>1</sup> The contract owner can participate in rising markets up to the rate crediting type. Growth opportunities are based on the elected rate crediting type. The performance (Performance Rate) for each Shield Option is determined on the term end date and is based on the index performance, adjusted for the applicable Shield Rate (level of protection) and rate crediting type. The issuing insurance company will absorb losses up to the level of protection in falling markets. The account value will be reduced by any negative index performance beyond the elected level of protection. If the Fixed Account is not elected, there could be a substantial loss if the index declines more than the level of protection. Availability of the Fixed Account may vary by state.

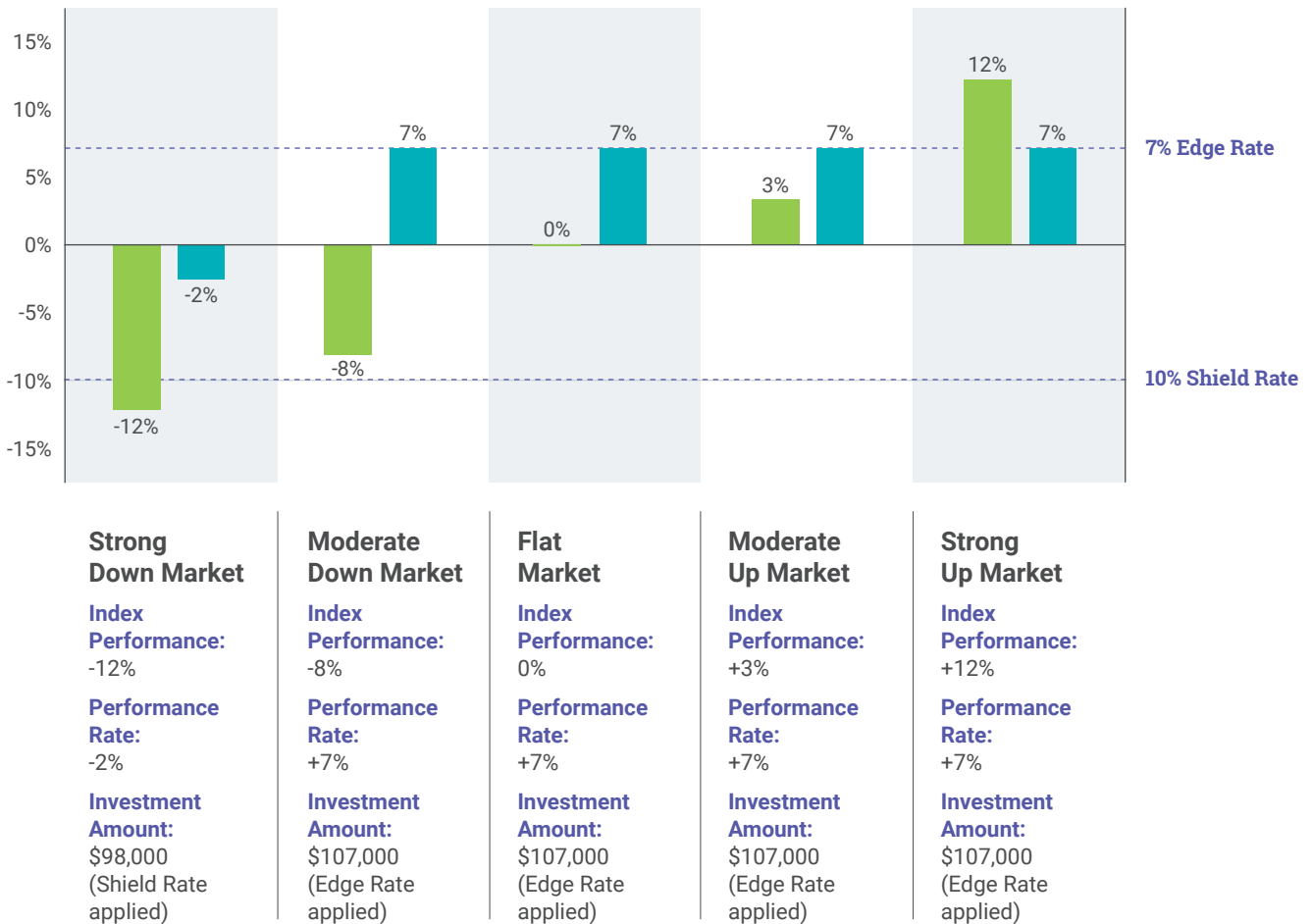
## Step Rate Edge in action

The chart below illustrates hypothetical index performance scenarios and how Step Rate Edge would or would not affect your annuity contract at the end of the term.

**Purchase Payment:** \$100,000      **Term:** 1 year      **Shield Rate:** 10% level of protection      **Edge Rate:** 7%

■ Index Performance      ■ Performance Rate

Hypothetical example for illustrative purposes only.



Shield Options with Step Rate Edge are available with Brighthouse Shield® Level II Annuities and Brighthouse Shield Level Pay Plus® II Annuities for 1-year and 2-year terms with 10% and 15% Shield Rates.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> The Shield Options available may vary by state or firm. The Edge Rate is subject to change and will vary based on the selected term, index, and level of protection.

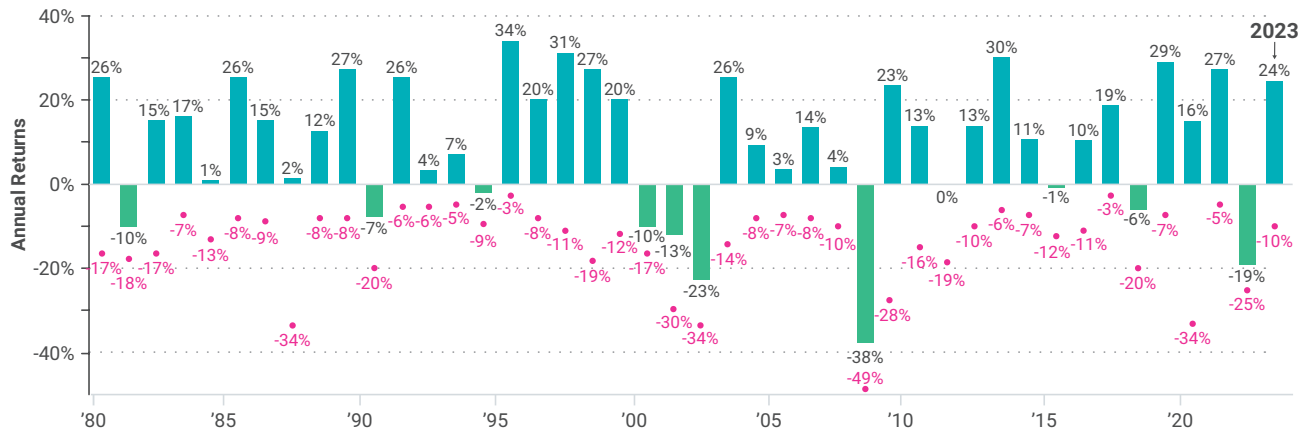
## How Step Rate Edge could add value

### Probability of success

Using historical data, let's look at how Shield Options with Step Rate Edge would have performed based on past market returns.

The chart below illustrates the historical performance of the S&P 500® Index<sup>A</sup> dating back to 1980. While experiencing overall growth, the index ended in negative territory more than 24% of the time for 1-year rolling terms and more than 18% of the time for 2-year rolling terms.

### S&P 500 Index Intra-Year Declines vs. Calendar Year Returns



Source: Guide to the Markets. J.P. Morgan Asset Management, December 31, 2023.

Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Market indices referenced are not managed and are used as a measurement of the value of a section of the stock market. Information about indices is provided to illustrate historical market trends and does not represent the performance of any specific investment. Performance does not include dividends. You cannot invest directly in an index.

Now let's take that history of performance and see the percentage of times that index performance was greater than or equal to the Shield Rate and a Shield Option with Step Rate Edge would have provided a positive return.

	1-Year Term		2-Year Term	
<b>Shield Rate</b>	10%	15%	10%	15%
<b>Probability of Receiving the Edge Rate</b>	84.41%	87.89%	85.13%	86.57%

Probabilities are based on rolling annual periods, calculated on a daily basis using the previous 365 days.

Shield Options with Step Rate Edge can provide growth opportunities even in certain down markets, which may help you better meet your goals for retirement.

Talk to your financial professional to see if Shield Options with Step Rate Edge might be a strategy that can work for you. Visit [brighthousefinancial.com](https://brighthousefinancial.com) for additional information and resources.

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Withdrawals of taxable amounts are subject to ordinary income tax. Withdrawals made before age 59½ may also be subject to a 10% federal income tax penalty. Distributions of taxable amounts from a non-qualified annuity may also be subject to the 3.8% Net Investment Income Tax that is generally imposed on interest, dividends, and annuity income if the modified adjusted gross income exceeds the applicable threshold amount. Withdrawals will reduce the death benefit and account value. Withdrawals may be subject to withdrawal charges. For Shield Level Pay Plus Annuities, early or excess withdrawals may reduce the Benefit Base and Net Purchase Payment Amount.

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