Milliman reports 12 basis points decrease in Hedge Cost Index for VA and 11 basis points decrease in RILA guarantees in July

The VA index stands at 92 basis points and the RILA index stands at 87 basis points

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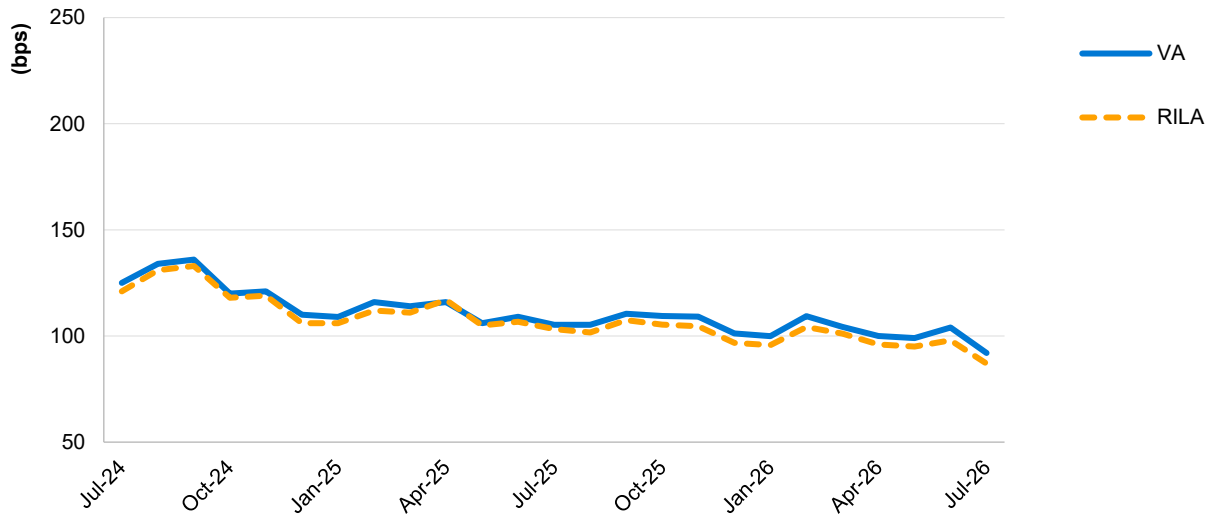
As of end of July 2026, the expected hedge cost is estimated to be 92 bps for a hypothetical lifetime withdrawal benefit (GLWB) on variable annuities (VA) and 87 bps for registered index-linked annuities (RILA), down 12 and 11 basis points respectively from the previous month, driven by an increase in long-term interest rates. The Index Methodology[1] provides additional details about the assumptions and methodologies underlying the Milliman Hedge Cost Index (MHCI).

EXPECTED HEDGE COST



1. To view the Milliman Hedge Cost Index Methodology, go to: http://www.milliman.com/mhci-methodology/

DATE	EXPECTED HEDGE COST FOR VA (BPS OF GUARANTEED WITHDRAWAL BASE)		EXPECTED HEDGE COST FOR RILA (BPS OF GUARANTEED WITHDRAWAL BASE)		CHANGE IN 20-YEAR SWAP RATE	
	EXPECTED HEDGE COST	CHANGE FROM PRIOR MONTH	EXPECTED HEDGE COST	CHANGE FROM PRIOR MONTH	MONTH-TO-MONTH CHANGE	ACCUMULATIVE CHANGE SINCE 2024/06/27
7/30/2024	125		121			
8/29/2024	134	9	131	10	-0.26%	-0.26%
9/27/2024	136	2	133	2	-0.07%	-0.32%
10/30/2024	120	(16)	118	(15)	0.43%	0.10%
11/27/2024	121	1	119	1	-0.03%	0.07%
12/30/2024	110	(11)	106	(13)	0.27%	0.34%
1/30/2025	109	(1)	106	0	0.03%	0.37%
2/27/2025	116	7	112	6	-0.19%	0.18%
3/28/2025	114	(2)	111	(1)	0.03%	0.20%
4/29/2025	116	2	117	6	-0.06%	0.14%
5/29/2025	106	(10)	105	(12)	0.22%	0.36%
6/27/2025	109	3	107	2	-0.10%	0.27%
7/30/2025	105	(4)	103	(4)	0.11%	0.38%
8/28/2025	105	0	102	(1)	-0.07%	0.31%
9/29/2025	110	5	107	5	-0.09%	0.21%
10/30/2025	109	(1)	105	(2)	0.02%	0.23%
11/26/2025	109	0	105	0	-0.03%	0.21%
12/30/2025	101	(8)	97	(8)	0.19%	0.40%
1/29/2026	100	(1)	96	(1)	0.06%	0.46%
2/26/2026	109	9	104	8	-0.26%	0.20%
3/30/2026	104	(5)	101	(3)	0.22%	0.42%
4/29/2026	100	(4)	96	(5)	0.08%	0.51%
5/28/2026	99	(1)	95	(1)	0.04%	0.54%
6/29/2026	104	5	98	3	-0.11%	0.43%
7/30/2026	92	(12)	87	(11)	0.33%	0.76%

ABOUT THE MILLIMAN HEDGE COST INDEX

The Milliman Hedge Cost Index™ (MHCI) provides the estimated hedging cost for hypothetical guaranteed lifetime withdrawal benefit (GLWB) blocks, based on product specifications and modeling assumptions as described in the MHCI Methodology document. The expected hedge cost is calculated using product features for a generic GLWB in line with product designs common in the market. Likewise, the modeling assumptions are based on typical actuarial and behavioral assumptions widely used by annuity writers in the marketplace.

Milliman conducts annual reviews of the product features and assumptions underlying the MHCI and will implement updates to the assumptions as and when appropriate to keep pace with market trends and industry practice.

The variable annuity (VA) and registered index-linked annuities (RILA) MHCI are calculated each month based on swap interest rates. In addition, the VA index assumes 50% of investment is in a fixed target volatility option and 50% is in traditional asset allocations that depend on the risk-adjusted Milliman Guaranteed Index (MGI) volatility assumption. The underlying product for the RILA MHCI assumes a one-year index term and annual point-to-point design on the S&P 500 index; the realized volatility assumption is also based on the risk-adjusted MGI. As a result, monthly changes in both VA and RILA expected hedge cost is primarily driven by movements in swap interest rates, with the RILA result slightly more sensitive to MGI movements. The VA index and the RILA index closely track each other over time.

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