

Fund description and summary of investment policy

The Fund invests in a mix of shares, bonds, property, commodities and cash. The Fund can invest a maximum of 45% offshore. The Fund typically invests the bulk of its foreign allowance in a mix of funds managed by Orbis Investment Management Limited, our offshore investment partner. The maximum net equity exposure of the Fund is 40%. The Fund's net equity exposure may be reduced from time to time using exchange-traded derivative contracts on stock market indices. The Fund is managed to comply with the investment limits governing retirement funds. Returns are likely to be less volatile than those of an equity-only fund or a balanced fund.

ASISA unit trust category: South African – Multi Asset – Low Equity

Fund objective and benchmark

The Fund aims to provide a high degree of capital stability and to minimise the risk of loss over any two-year period, while producing long-term returns that are superior to bank deposits. The Fund's benchmark is the daily interest rate, as supplied by FirstRand Bank Limited, plus 2%.

How we aim to achieve the Fund's objective

A major portion of the Fund is typically invested in money market instruments. We seek to deploy the Fund's cash by investing in shares when they can be bought at a significant discount to their intrinsic value. We thoroughly research companies to assess their intrinsic value from a long-term perspective. This long-term perspective enables us to buy shares which are shunned by the stock market because of their unexciting or poor short-term prospects, but which are relatively attractively priced if one looks to the long term. If the stock market offers few attractive shares, we may allocate a low weight to shares or partially hedge the Fund's stock market exposure in consideration of the Fund's capital preservation objectives. The Fund may also invest in bonds, property and commodities. The Fund's bond and money market investments are actively managed.

Suitable for those investors who

- Are risk-averse and require a high degree of capital stability
- Seek both above-inflation returns over the long term, and capital preservation over any two-year period
- Require some income but also some capital growth
- Wish to invest in a unit trust that complies with retirement fund investment limits

Minimum investment amounts*

Initial lump sum per investor account	R50 000
Additional lump sum	R1 000
Debit order**	R1 000

*Lower minimum investment amounts apply for investments in the name of an investor younger than 18. Please refer to our website for more information.

**Only available to investors with a South African bank account.

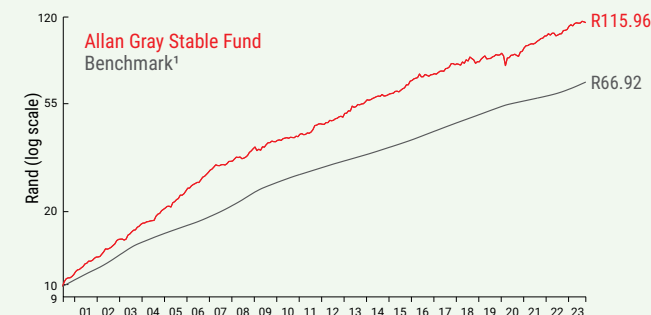
Fund information on 31 October 2023

Fund size	R50.4bn
Number of units	568 994 211
Price (net asset value per unit)	R42.34
Class	A

- The Fund's benchmark is the daily interest rate, as supplied by FirstRand Bank Limited plus 2%, performance as calculated by Allan Gray as at 31 October 2023.
- This is based on the latest available numbers published by IRESS as at 30 September 2023.
- Maximum percentage decline over any period. The maximum drawdown occurred from 20 January 2020 to 23 March 2020. Drawdown is calculated on the total return of the Fund (i.e. including income).
- The percentage of calendar months in which the Fund produced a positive monthly return since inception.
- The standard deviation of the Fund's monthly return. This is a measure of how much an investment's return varies from its average over time.
- These are the highest or lowest consecutive 12-month returns since inception. This is a measure of how much the Fund and the benchmark returns have varied per rolling 12-month period. The Fund's highest annual return occurred during the 12 months ended 30 April 2006 and the benchmark's occurred during the 12 months ended 30 June 2003. The Fund's lowest annual return occurred during the 12 months ended 31 March 2020 and the benchmark's occurred during the 12 months ended 31 August 2021. All rolling 12-month figures for the Fund and the benchmark are available from our Client Service Centre on request.

Performance net of all fees and expenses

Value of R10 invested at inception with all distributions reinvested



% Returns	Fund	Benchmark ¹	CPI inflation ²
Cumulative:			
Since inception (1 July 2000)	1059.6	569.2	249.4
Annualised:			
Since inception (1 July 2000)	11.1	8.5	5.5
Latest 10 years	7.9	7.1	5.1
Latest 5 years	7.2	6.7	5.0
Latest 3 years	11.0	6.4	6.0
Latest 2 years	7.7	7.4	6.4
Latest 1 year	7.6	9.0	5.4
Year-to-date (not annualised)	6.6	7.6	4.7
Risk measures (since inception)			
Maximum drawdown ³	-16.7	n/a	n/a
Percentage positive months ⁴	77.5	100.0	n/a
Annualised monthly volatility ⁵	5.2	0.7	n/a
Highest annual return ⁶	23.3	14.6	n/a
Lowest annual return ⁶	-7.4	4.6	n/a

Meeting the Fund objective

Since inception and over the latest 10- and five-year periods, the Fund has outperformed its benchmark. The Fund has provided returns in excess of CPI inflation for all three periods. The Fund aims to minimise the risk of loss over any two-year period.

Income distributions for the last 12 months

To the extent that income earned in the form of dividends and interest exceeds expenses in the Fund, the Fund will distribute any surplus quarterly.	31 Dec 2022	31 Mar 2023	30 Jun 2023	30 Sep 2023
Cents per unit	31.6358	52.2518	36.6206	44.1534

Annual management fee

Allan Gray charges a fee based on the net asset value of the Fund excluding the portion invested in Orbis funds. The fee rate is calculated daily by comparing the Fund's total performance over the last two years, to that of the benchmark. If the Fund's return over two years is equal to or less than 0%, Allan Gray will not charge a fee.

Fee for performance equal to the Fund's benchmark: 1.00% p.a. excl. VAT

For each percentage of two-year performance above or below the benchmark we add or deduct 0.1%, subject to the following limits:

Maximum fee: 1.50% p.a. excl. VAT

Minimum fee: 0.50% p.a. excl. VAT

This means that Allan Gray shares in approximately 20% of annualised performance relative to the benchmark.

A portion of the Fund may be invested in Orbis funds. Orbis charges performance-based fees within these funds that are calculated based on each Orbis fund's performance relative to its own benchmark. Orbis pays a marketing and distribution fee to Allan Gray.

Total expense ratio (TER) and transaction costs

The annual management fees charged by both Allan Gray and Orbis are included in the TER. The TER is a measure of the actual expenses incurred by the Fund over a one and three-year period (annualised). Since Fund returns are quoted after deduction of these expenses, the TER should not be deducted from the published returns (refer to page 4 for further information). Transaction costs are disclosed separately.

Top 10 share holdings on 30 September 2023 (SA and Foreign) (updated quarterly)⁷

Company	% of portfolio
British American Tobacco	2.7
AB InBev	2.0
Woolworths	1.5
Glencore	1.5
Nedbank	1.3
Standard Bank	1.3
Remgro	1.2
Marriott International	1.1
Sasol	1.0
MultiChoice	0.8
Total (%)	14.4

7. Underlying holdings of foreign funds are included on a look-through basis.

8. All credit exposure 1% or more of portfolio.

9. Includes Africa ex-SA exposure following the consolidation of the foreign ex-Africa and Africa ex-SA allowances into a single foreign limit of 45%.

Total expense ratio (TER) and transaction costs (updated quarterly)

TER and transaction costs breakdown for the 1- and 3-year period ending 30 September 2023	1yr %	3yr %
Total expense ratio	1.74	1.52
Fee for benchmark performance	1.01	1.01
Performance fees	0.52	0.32
Other costs excluding transaction costs	0.03	0.03
VAT	0.18	0.16
Transaction costs (including VAT)	0.04	0.05
Total investment charge	1.78	1.57

Top credit exposures on 30 September 2023 (SA and Foreign) (updated quarterly)^{7,8}

Issuer	% of portfolio
Republic of South Africa	11.2
FirstRand Bank	9.2
Standard Bank	7.7
Absa Bank	7.4
Investec Bank	3.2
Nedbank	1.8
Northam Platinum	1.5
Sasol	1.5
United States Treasury	1.4
South African Futures Exchange	1.2
Total (%)	46.1

Asset allocation on 31 October 2023⁷

Asset class	Total	South Africa	Foreign ⁹
Net equities	24.7	13.7	11.0
Hedged equities	18.5	8.6	10.0
Property	1.0	0.8	0.2
Commodity-linked	2.3	1.8	0.5
Bonds	32.1	24.8	7.2
Money market and bank deposits ¹⁰	21.4	22.7	-1.3
Total (%)	100.0	72.4	27.6¹¹

10. Including currency hedges.

11. The Fund can invest a maximum of 45% offshore. Market movements may periodically cause the Fund to move beyond these limits. This must be corrected within 12 months.

Since inception, the Fund's month-end net equity exposure has varied as follows:

Minimum	(January 2010) 12.4%
Average	26.5%
Maximum	(December 2018) 39.6%

Note: There may be slight discrepancies in the totals due to rounding.

Returns from most South African assets have been muted throughout 2023. Year to date, South African shares (as measured by the FTSE/JSE Capped Shareholder Weighted All Share Index) returned 0%, bonds returned 1% and cash returned 6%. Over the same period, the Fund delivered a return of 7%, keeping pace with its benchmark's return of 7% and ahead of CPI inflation of 4%. Performance was helped by its conservative local fixed income positioning and the foreign allocation, which benefited from a weaker rand.

Long-term South African government bonds currently offer yields in excess of 12%, which look very attractive at face value: Domestic inflation has fallen below 5%, so they offer a real (i.e. after inflation) yield of 7%. This is close to the highest it has been in the last two decades. It is likely that the South African Reserve Bank has reached the peak of the current interest rate hiking cycle or is close to reaching it. If inflation remains subdued, there is a good chance that interest rates will be cut next year, which would be good news for bondholders. We do believe South African government bonds offer decent value and have increased their weighting in the Fund in recent years. But despite these bullish arguments, South African bonds make up just 24% of the Fund. This includes the exposure to South African government bonds as well as corporates, with a conservative exposure to duration and credit risk. The South African government continues to run a large fiscal deficit, which the South African savings pool has a limited ability to fund. As long as foreign investors remain apprehensive of South African bonds, there is a risk that local bond yields increase even more, i.e. a decline in prices.

It is useful to reiterate the Fund's objectives, namely, to generate returns ahead of bank deposits and inflation while maintaining a high degree of capital stability and minimising the risk of loss over any two-year period. Long-term South African bonds may offer high yields but clearly come with risks and can be fairly volatile. Meanwhile, local cash is a good alternative, offering attractive yields in excess of 9% at much lower risk. Cash also has valuable optionality, as it can be used to take advantage of future opportunities that may arise.

A similar argument can be made for inflation-linked bonds: It makes sense to sacrifice some yield for the insurance against potential high-inflation scenarios. We also prefer domestic shares over South African bonds, given the low valuations of shares. Shares also protect investors against the risk of inflation, as companies can typically pass higher prices on to their customers to some degree. The higher volatility of shares does of course need to be considered. At present, the Fund has a net equity exposure of 24%.

The Fund has a foreign exposure of 28% – below the 45% foreign capacity limit. One reason for not utilising the full foreign capacity is that local opportunities are more attractive at present. It is also worth remembering that a significant portion of "local" shares are in fact businesses with earnings outside of South Africa, so the underlying foreign exposure is higher than it appears. We also need to be mindful of additional volatility as a result of increasing the foreign exposure, given the Fund's objective of offering investment stability and capital preservation in rand terms. Currently, the majority of the Fund's offshore allocation is invested in low-risk instruments such as cash or cash-like securities and hedged equities.

Our approach remains focused on bottom-up company research to find superior investment opportunities. This includes identifying investments which offer the highest expected returns but also weighs up the associated risks and the diversification benefits of uncorrelated returns. All these factors are considered in putting together the portfolio.

During the quarter, the Fund added to positions in AB InBev, MultiChoice and British American Tobacco and trimmed exposure to the NewGold ETF, Standard Bank and Sasol.

Commentary contributed by Tim Acker

Fund manager quarterly commentary as at 30 September 2023

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Allan Gray is an authorised financial services provider.

Management Company

Allan Gray Unit Trust Management (RF) (Pty) Ltd (the "Management Company") is registered as a management company under the Collective Investment Schemes Control Act 45 of 2002, in terms of which it operates unit trust portfolios under the Allan Gray Unit Trust Scheme, and is supervised by the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA). The Management Company is incorporated under the laws of South Africa and has been approved by the regulatory authority of Botswana to market its unit trusts in Botswana, however, it is not supervised or licensed in Botswana. Allan Gray (Pty) Ltd (the "Investment Manager"), an authorised financial services provider, is the appointed investment manager of the Management Company and is a member of the Association for Savings & Investment South Africa (ASISA).

The trustee/custodian of the Allan Gray Unit Trust Scheme is Rand Merchant Bank, a division of FirstRand Bank Limited. The trustee/custodian can be contacted at RMB Custody and Trustee Services: Tel: +27 (0)11 301 6335 or www.rmb.co.za.

Performance

Collective investment schemes in securities (unit trusts or funds) are generally medium- to long-term investments. The value of units may go down as well as up and past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Movements in exchange rates may also cause the value of underlying international investments to go up or down. The Management Company does not provide any guarantee regarding the capital or the performance of the Fund. Performance figures are provided by the Investment Manager and are for lump sum investments with income distributions reinvested. Actual investor performance may differ as a result of the investment date, the date of reinvestment and dividend withholding tax.

Fund mandate

Funds may be closed to new investments at any time in order to be managed according to their mandates. Unit trusts are traded at ruling prices and can engage in borrowing and scrip lending. The funds may borrow up to 10% of their market value to bridge insufficient liquidity.

Unit price

Unit trust prices are calculated on a net asset value basis, which is the total market value of all assets in the Fund, including any income accruals and less any permissible deductions from the Fund, divided by the number of units in issue. Forward pricing is used and fund valuations take place at approximately 16:00 each business day. Purchase and redemption requests must be received by the Management Company by 14:00 each business day to receive that day's price. Unit trust prices are available daily on www.allangray.co.za.

Fees

Permissible deductions may include management fees, brokerage, securities transfer tax, auditor's fees, bank charges and trustee fees. A schedule of fees, charges and maximum commissions is available on request from Allan Gray. For more information about our annual management fees, refer to the [frequently asked questions](#), available via the Allan Gray website.

Total expense ratio (TER) and transaction costs

The total expense ratio (TER) is the annualised percentage of the Fund's average assets under management that has been used to pay the Fund's actual expenses over the past one- and three-year periods. The TER includes the annual management fees that have been charged (both the fee at benchmark and any performance component charged), VAT and other expenses like audit and trustee fees. Transaction costs (including brokerage, securities transfer tax, Share Transactions Totally Electronic (STRATE) and FSCA Investor Protection Levy and VAT thereon) are shown separately. Transaction costs are necessary costs in administering the Fund and impact Fund returns. They should not be considered in isolation as returns may be impacted by many other factors over time, including market returns, the type of financial product, the investment decisions of the investment manager, and the TER. Since Fund returns are quoted after the deduction of these expenses, the TER and transaction costs should not be deducted again from published returns. As unit trust expenses vary, the current TER cannot be used as an indication of future TERs. A higher TER does not necessarily imply a poor return, nor does a low TER imply a good return. Instead, when investing, the investment objective of the Fund should be aligned with the investor's objective and compared against the performance of the Fund. The TER and other funds' TERs should then be used to evaluate whether the Fund performance offers value for money. The sum of the TER and transaction costs is shown as the total investment charge (TIC).

Compliance with Regulation 28

The Fund is managed to comply with Regulation 28 of the Pension Funds Act 24 of 1956 (the "Pension Funds Act"). Exposures in excess of the limits will be corrected immediately, except where due to a change in the fair value or characteristic of an asset, e.g. market value fluctuations, in which case they will be corrected within the prescribed regulatory time period. The Management Company does not monitor compliance by retirement funds with section 19(4) of the Pension Funds Act (item 6 of Table 1 to Regulation 28).

FTSE/JSE All Share Index, FTSE/JSE Capped Shareholder Weighted All Share Index and FTSE/JSE All Bond Index

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FTSE Russell Index

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MSCI Index

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