Allan Gray Equity Fund

29 February 2024

Fund description and summary of investment policy

The Fund invests primarily in shares listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE). The Fund can invest a maximum of 45% offshore. The Fund invests the bulk of its foreign allowance in equity funds managed by Orbis Investment Management Limited, our offshore investment partner. The Fund is typically fully invested in shares. Returns are likely to be volatile, especially over short- and medium-term periods.

ASISA unit trust category: South African – Equity – General

Fund objective and benchmark

The Fund aims to create long-term wealth for investors. It aims to outperform the average return of South African General Equity Funds over the long term, without taking on greater risk of loss. To pursue its objective the Fund's portfolio may differ materially from those of its peers. This will result in the Fund underperforming its benchmark materially at times. The Fund aims to compensate for these periods of underperformance by delivering outperformance over the long term. The Fund's benchmark is the market value-weighted average return of funds in the South African – Equity – General category (excluding Allan Gray funds).

How we aim to achieve the Fund's objective

We seek to buy shares offering the best relative value while maintaining a diversified portfolio. We thoroughly research companies to assess their intrinsic value from a long-term perspective. This long-term perspective enables us to buy shares from sellers who over-react to short-term difficulties or undervalue long-term potential. We invest in a selection of shares across all sectors of the stock market, and across the range of large, mid and smaller cap shares.

Suitable for those investors who

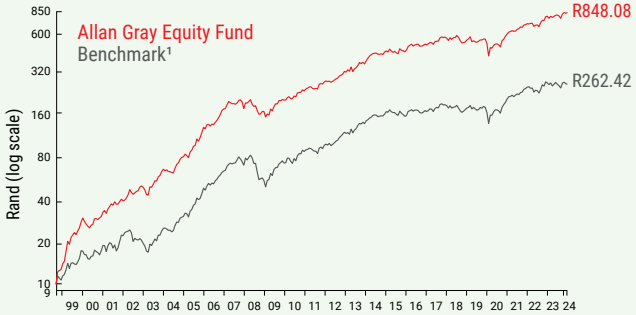
- Seek exposure to listed equities to provide long-term capital growth
- Are comfortable with stock market fluctuation, i.e. short- to medium-term volatility
- Are prepared to accept the risk of capital loss
- Typically have an investment horizon of more than five years
- Wish to use the Fund as an equity 'building block' in a diversified multi-asset class portfolio

Fund information on 29 February 2024

Fund size	R43.5bn
Number of units	46 656 527
Price (net asset value per unit)	R550.09
Class	A

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 October 1998)	8380.8	2524.2	277.3
Annualised:			
Since inception (1 October 1998)	19.1	13.7	5.4
Latest 10 years	8.2	6.1	5.1
Latest 5 years	9.4	8.0	5.1
Latest 3 years	12.4	8.3	6.0
Latest 2 years	9.5	2.3	6.1
Latest 1 year	6.2	-2.3	5.3
Year-to-date (not annualised)	0.1	-3.4	0.1
Risk measures (since inception)			
Maximum drawdown[3]	-37.0	-45.4	n/a
Percentage positive months[4]	65.6	58.7	n/a
Annualised monthly volatility[5]	15.2	16.5	n/a
Highest annual return[6]	125.8	73.0	n/a
Lowest annual return[6]	-24.3	-37.6	n/a

1. The market value-weighted average return of funds in the South African – Equity – General category (excluding Allan Gray funds). Source: Morningstar, performance as calculated by Allan Gray as at 29 February 2024. From inception to 28 February 2015 the benchmark was the FTSE/JSE All Share Index including income. Source: IRESS.
2. This is based on the latest available numbers published by IRESS as at 31 January 2024.
3. Maximum percentage decline over any period. The maximum drawdown occurred from 3 September 2018 to 23 March 2020 and maximum benchmark drawdown occurred from 22 May 2008 to 20 November 2008. Drawdown is calculated on the total return of the Fund/benchmark (i.e. including income).
4. The percentage of calendar months in which the Fund produced a positive monthly return since inception.
5. 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.
6. 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 September 1999 and the benchmark's occurred during the 12 months ended 30 April 2006. 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 28 February 2009. All rolling 12-month figures for the Fund and the benchmark are available from our Client Service Centre on request.

Meeting the Fund objective

The Fund has created wealth for its long-term investors. Since inception and over the latest 10- and five-year periods, the Fund has outperformed its benchmark. The Fund experiences periods of underperformance in pursuit of its objective of creating long-term wealth for investors, without taking on greater risk of loss than the average equity fund. The maximum drawdown and lowest annual return numbers, in the 'Performance net of all fees and expenses' table, show that the Fund has successfully reduced downside risk in periods of negative market returns.

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 biannually.	30 Jun 2023	31 Dec 2023
Cents per unit	**128.4571**	**366.6592**

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 for the day to that of the benchmark.

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

For each annualised percentage point above or below the benchmark we add or deduct 0.2%. The maximum fee is uncapped and if the fee would have been negative, 0% will be charged for the day and the negative fee will be carried forward to reduce the next day's fee (and all subsequent days until the underperformance is recovered).

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 31 December 2023 (SA and Foreign) (updated quarterly)[7]

Company	% of portfolio
British American Tobacco	5.2
AB InBev	4.7
Glencore	3.6
Naspers & Prosus	3.4
Standard Bank	3.3
Mondi	2.9
Woolworths	2.7
Nedbank	2.5
Remgro	2.5
Booking Holdings Inc	1.8
Total (%)	**32.7**

7. Underlying holdings of foreign funds are included on a look-through basis.
8. Includes listed property.
9. FTSE/JSE All Share Index.

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

TER and transaction costs breakdown for the 1- and 3-year period ending 31 December 2023	1yr %	3yr %
Total expense ratio	**2.25**	**1.55**
Fee for benchmark performance	1.05	1.09
Performance fees	0.93	0.27
Other costs excluding transaction costs	0.04	0.04
VAT	0.23	0.15
Transaction costs (including VAT)	**0.07**	**0.09**
Total investment charge	**2.32**	**1.64**

Sector allocation on 31 December 2023 (updated quarterly)[7]

Sector	% of equities[8]	% of ALSI[9]
Financials	27.7	26.8
Consumer staples	17.2	10.9
Basic materials	14.8	26.2
Consumer discretionary	14.0	6.7
Industrials	10.5	5.3
Technology	5.5	12.2
Energy	4.3	1.2
Healthcare	2.1	2.0
Telecommunications	1.6	4.7
Utilities	1.3	0.0
Real estate	1.0	4.0
Total (%)	**100.0**	**100.0**

Asset allocation on 29 February 2024[7]

Asset class	Total	South Africa	Foreign
Net equities	96.2	52.5	43.8
Hedged equities	0.0	0.0	0.0
Property	1.0	0.7	0.3
Commodity-linked	0.6	0.6	0.0
Bonds	0.3	0.0	0.2
Money market and bank deposits[10]	1.9	1.3	0.6
Total (%)	**100.0**	**55.1**	**44.9[11]**

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.

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

Fund manager quarterly commentary as at 31 December 2023

The Allan Gray Equity Fund had a good 2023. The Fund returned 14% in rands – well ahead of the peer group benchmark of 7%. Things look less impressive from an international perspective, as the Fund only returned 4% in US dollars. While this is still better than the Fund's peers, the MSCI World Index still fared better and was up 24% in dollars.

A year ago I wrote, "It seems like the tide has turned for government bonds, technology stocks and cryptocurrencies." I could not have been more mistaken. The yield on the US 30-year government bond is almost exactly where it started the year 2023, the Nasdaq is up 45% and trading at its all-time high, and the price of Bitcoin went up by 163% over the year. It's a good thing our approach to investing relies more on bottom-up fundamental analysis than on analysing market trends.

Very few of the market fears from a year ago have materialised. Despite the ongoing war in Ukraine and a new conflict in the Middle East, wheat and energy prices are lower than they were a year ago. The US saw some bank failures in March, but the crisis blew over quickly. Aside from China, property prices in most of the world have not fallen as much as we would have expected given higher interest rates. And even when it comes to China, the sharp slowdown in new building has surprisingly not led to a lower price for iron ore.

Turning to South African stocks, there was no dominant theme – though it was a good idea to avoid platinum stocks. We largely managed this, with the exception of Sibanye-Stillwater, which was a detractor from performance.

We often saw a big discrepancy in performance within sectors. For example:

- Gold Fields gave a total return of 63%, but AngloGold gave only 9%.
- Mondi gave 31%, but investors in Sappi lost 5%.
- Investec gave 25%, but investors in Absa lost 9%.
- Fortress A, Fortress B, Shaftesbury and Hammerson all gave a total return of more than 30%, but Growthpoint and MAS PLC were both down more than 10%.
- Shoprite gave a total return of 25%, but Pick n Pay did -57%.

We think the stocks in the portfolio show good value and will provide reasonable returns in a range of macroeconomic outcomes. By way of example, AB InBev, our largest stock, is trading at almost 22 times consensus earnings for 2023. This is not an eye-watering multiple for a well-run company that converts most of its earnings to cash, but if the share price stays where it is, the multiple should come down with strong earnings growth over the next two years.

For the 12 months to the end of December 2023, the contributors to performance were overweight positions in AB InBev and Mondi and underweight positions in platinum stocks and Anglo American. The detractors from performance were overweight positions in British American Tobacco and Sibanye-Stillwater.

In the final quarter of 2023, the Fund returned 6% – in line with the benchmark. The foreign portion gave a return of 6%, lagging the MSCI World Index's 9%.

During the quarter, we bought shares in South32 and AB InBev, and sold shares in Glencore and Standard Bank.

Commentary contributed by Jacques Plaut

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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.

MSCI Index

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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).

FTSE/JSE All Share Index, FTSE/JSE Capped Shareholder Weighted All Share Index and FTSE/JSE Mid Cap Index

The FTSE/JSE All Share Index, FTSE/JSE Capped Shareholder Weighted All Share Index and FTSE/JSE Mid Cap Index are calculated by FTSE International Limited ("FTSE") in conjunction with the JSE Limited ("JSE") in accordance with standard criteria. The FTSE/JSE All Share Index, FTSE/JSE Capped Shareholder Weighted All Share Index and FTSE/JSE Mid Cap Index are the proprietary information of FTSE and the JSE. All copyright subsisting in the values and constituent lists of the FTSE/JSE All Share Index, FTSE/JSE Capped Shareholder Weighted All Share Index and FTSE/JSE Mid Cap Index vests in FTSE and the JSE jointly. All their rights are reserved.

FTSE Russell Index

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Important information for investors

Need more information?
You can obtain additional information about your proposed investment from Allan Gray free of charge either via our website **www.allangray.co.za** or via our Client Service Centre on **0860 000 654**

Allan Gray Balanced Fund

29 February 2024

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 75% and we may use exchange-traded derivative contracts on stock market indices to reduce net equity exposure from time to time. 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.

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

Fund objective and benchmark

The Fund aims to create long-term wealth for investors within the constraints governing retirement funds. It aims to outperform the average return of similar funds without assuming any more risk. The Fund's benchmark is the market value-weighted average return of funds in the South African – Multi Asset – High Equity category (excluding Allan Gray funds).

How we aim to achieve the Fund's objective

We seek to buy shares at a 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 increase the Fund's weighting to alternative assets such as bonds, property, commodities and cash, or we may partially hedge the Fund's stock market exposure. By varying the Fund's exposure to these different asset classes over time, we seek to enhance the Fund's long-term returns and to manage its risk. The Fund's bond and money market investments are actively managed.

Suitable for those investors who

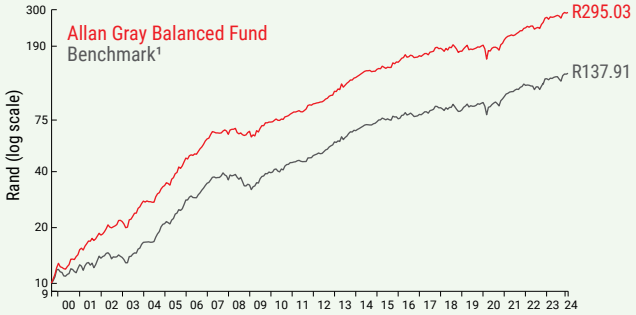
- Seek steady long-term capital growth
- Are comfortable with taking on some risk of market fluctuation and potential capital loss, but typically less than that of an equity fund
- Wish to invest in a unit trust that complies with retirement fund investment limits
- Typically have an investment horizon of more than three years

Fund information on 29 February 2024

Fund size	R183.9bn
Number of units	577 689 778
Price (net asset value per unit)	R145.69
Class	A

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 October 1999)	2850.3	1279.1	271.1
Annualised:			
Since inception (1 October 1999)	14.9	11.3	5.5
Latest 10 years	8.3	7.3	5.1
Latest 5 years	9.5	8.9	5.1
Latest 3 years	11.0	9.0	6.0
Latest 2 years	9.0	7.6	6.1
Latest 1 year	6.2	7.0	5.3
Year-to-date (not annualised)	-0.1	0.9	0.1
Risk measures (since inception)			
Maximum drawdown[3]	-25.4	-23.3	n/a
Percentage positive months[4]	69.6	67.2	n/a
Annualised monthly volatility[5]	9.4	9.4	n/a
Highest annual return[6]	46.1	41.9	n/a
Lowest annual return[6]	-14.2	-16.7	n/a

1. The market value-weighted average return of funds in the South African – Multi Asset – High Equity category (excluding Allan Gray funds). Source: Morningstar, performance as calculated by Allan Gray as at 29 February 2024. From inception to 31 January 2013 the benchmark was the market value-weighted average return of the funds in both the Domestic Asset Allocation Medium Equity and Domestic Asset Allocation Variable Equity sectors of the previous ASISA Fund Classification Standard, excluding the Allan Gray Balanced Fund. Source: Morningstar.
2. This is based on the latest available numbers published by IRESS as at 31 January 2024.
3. Maximum percentage decline over any period. The maximum drawdown occurred from 20 January 2020 to 23 March 2020 and maximum benchmark drawdown occurred from 20 January 2020 to 23 March 2020. Drawdown is calculated on the total return of the Fund/benchmark (i.e. including income).
4. The percentage of calendar months in which the Fund produced a positive monthly return since inception.
5. 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.
6. 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 April 2006. 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 28 February 2009. All rolling 12-month figures for the Fund and the benchmark are available from our Client Service Centre on request.

Meeting the Fund objective

The Fund has created wealth for its long-term investors. Since inception and over the latest 10- and five-year periods, the Fund has outperformed its benchmark. The Fund experiences periods of underperformance in pursuit of its objective of creating long-term wealth for investors, without taking on greater risk of loss than the average balanced fund.

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 biannually.	30 Jun 2023	31 Dec 2023
Cents per unit	**129.9463**	**163.9386**

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.

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 31 December 2023 (SA and Foreign) (updated quarterly)[7]

Company	% of portfolio
AB InBev	4.2
British American Tobacco	4.1
Glencore	2.8
Naspers & Prosus	2.7
Mondi	2.3
Woolworths	2.2
Nedbank	2.1
Standard Bank	2.0
Remgro	1.8
Sasol	1.5
Total (%)	**25.7**

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

TER and transaction costs breakdown for the 1- and 3-year period ending 31 December 2023	1yr %	3yr %
Total expense ratio	**1.83**	**1.46**
Fee for benchmark performance	1.02	1.02
Performance fees	0.61	0.27
Other costs excluding transaction costs	0.03	0.03
VAT	0.17	0.14
Transaction costs (including VAT)	**0.06**	**0.07**
Total investment charge	**1.89**	**1.53**

Asset allocation on 29 February 2024[7]

Asset class	Total	South Africa	Foreign
Net equities	65.6	40.1	25.5
Hedged equities	8.8	2.2	6.6
Property	0.9	0.6	0.4
Commodity-linked	3.1	2.5	0.6
Bonds	14.0	8.8	5.1
Money market and bank deposits[8]	7.6	6.8	0.8
Total (%)	**100.0**	**61.0**	**39.0[9]**

7. Underlying holdings of foreign funds are included on a look-through basis.
8. Including currency hedges.
9. 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	(February 2000) 49.3%
Average	63.2%
Maximum	(May 2021) 72.9%

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

Fund manager quarterly commentary as at 31 December 2023

2023 was another year full of surprising and unpredictable events. Most notably, in our opinion, global markets continue to be dominated by the announcements and actions of central banks, and expectations around those actions, rather than fundamentals. In 2022, as global inflation spiked and central banks responded by hiking interest rates, we saw a considerable sell-off in speculative, long-duration and leveraged assets, as the era of "easy money" appeared to be over. As inflation tapered during the course of 2023, and central banks have begun to signal an end to rate hiking and possible rate cuts, many of these assets have rebounded sharply:

- After selling off in 2022, global equity markets rebounded and were once again dominated by US stocks, and in particular large-cap US technology stocks. For the year ending 31 December 2023, the MSCI World Index was up 24%, the S&P 500 up 26% and the Nasdaq up 45% – in US dollars. The largest US stocks (Apple, Alphabet, Meta, Microsoft, Tesla, Nvidia and Amazon) have come to be known as the "magnificent seven", and in 2023, magnificent they were. The "worst" performing of the group was Apple, up 49%, while the best, Nvidia, buoyed by the excitement around artificial intelligence and the related demand for their chips, was up over 200%. In absolute terms, the market value of Nvidia increased by over US$800bn.
- Cryptocurrencies have also seen a resurgence. After being down over 64% in 2022, Bitcoin has bounced more than 160% to end the year at US$42 085. Remarkably, that is still below where it began in 2022. This mathematical fact highlights how important avoiding large losses is to successful long-term investing. If you buy something that subsequently halves in value, you need it to increase by 100% to get your money back. In this particular case, Bitcoin speculators who bought on 31 December 2021 need to see a price recovery of 178% from 31 December 2022 to get their money back in nominal terms.
- One asset class that hasn't seen as strong a recovery is the bond market. At the end of 2020, at the peak of the "easy money" era, there were roughly US$18tn of negative-yielding bonds. That is to say, at that point in the market cycle, there was US$18tn of debt where lenders were paying borrowers to borrow money from them! As interest rates began increasing in 2021 and increased further through 2022, bondholders began to suffer. The J.P. Morgan Global Government Bond Index fell by 6.5% in 2021 and a further 17.2% in 2022. It has failed to recover meaningfully in 2023, returning 4.0%. Those who held long-duration "safe-haven" developed market bonds have fared much worse. In 2022, investors in US and UK 30-year bonds lost a third and half of their investments, respectively – only to see further declines in prices during the course of 2023, with a marginal recovery by year end.

Domestically, the economic environment remains challenging, dominated by poor sentiment and record levels of loadshedding. It is not surprising that we have not seen the same resurgence in asset prices:

- In rands, the FTSE/JSE Capped SWIX All Share Index generated a return of 7.9% in 2023, which equates to a decline of 1.1% in US dollars, given persistent rand weakness. Within that though, there has been a large divergence in individual sector and stock performance. By way of example, within the precious metals sector, Harmony Gold has returned 105% for the year, while Impala Platinum fell by 55%, including dividends.
- The FTSE/JSE All Bond Index has fared slightly better, generating a return of 9.7% in rands and 0.6% in US dollars. Somewhat surprisingly, given the economic landscape, growing government debt and fiscal deficits, the yield on 10-year bonds has strengthened marginally from 11.1% at the start of 2023 to 10.9% at the end of the year.

In this environment, the Fund returned 4.7% for the fourth quarter of 2023 and 13.0% for the 2023 calendar year. This compares with benchmark returns of 6.6% for the quarter and 13.3% for the year. Over three years, the Fund has delivered an annualised return of 13.7%, compared with 10.9% for the benchmark and inflation of 6.1%.

As we look to 2024 and beyond, what should we expect of inflation, and how this may impact central banks' behaviour, interest rates and market returns?

In short: We don't know. Our only expectation is that events are likely to surprise us, and surprise us in how the market reacts. We navigate this uncertainty by being patient and disciplined, and striving to buy only those assets where the risk-to-reward opportunity is skewed heavily in our favour, with a large margin of safety and the knowledge that we won't always get it right.

During the quarter, the Fund bought AB InBev and British American Tobacco and sold Glencore and Standard Bank.

One other notable event that occurred in the final quarter of 2023 was the passing of Charlie Munger, aged 99. Warren Buffett's right-hand man, Charlie, was renowned for his investment acumen, common sense and "worldly wisdom". A remarkable man, Charlie never shied from sharing his opinion on a variety of topics, often with biting bluntness. On the topics of inflation, forecasting and probabilities, we think Charlie said it best:

"I remember the US$0.05 hamburger and a US$0.40-per-hour minimum wage, so I've seen a tremendous amount of inflation in my lifetime. Did it ruin the investment climate? I think not."

"People have always had this craving to have someone tell them the future. Long ago, kings would hire people to read sheep guts. There's always been a market for people who pretend to know the future. Listening to today's forecasters is just as crazy as when the king hired the guy to look at the sheep guts."

"If you don't get this elementary, but mildly unnatural, mathematics of elementary probability into your repertoire, then you go through a long life like a one-legged man in an *ss-kicking contest."

The investment world is a little less wise without Charlie in it.

Commentary contributed by Rory Kutisker-Jacobson

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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.

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MSCI Index

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J.P. Morgan Index

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Important information for investors

Need more information?
You can obtain additional information about your proposed investment from Allan Gray free of charge either via our website **www.allangray.co.za** or via our Client Service Centre on **0860 000 654**

ALLANGRAY

Fund managers: Duncan Artus, Sean Munsie, Tim Acker
(Most foreign assets are invested in Orbis funds) **Inception date:** 1 July 2000

Allan Gray Stable Fund

29 February 2024

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

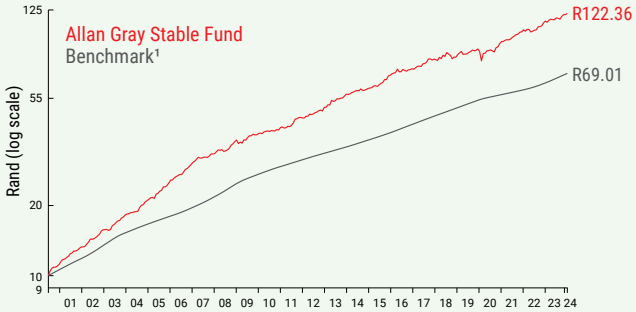
- Are risk-averse and require a high degree of capital stability
- Seek both above-inflation returns over the long term, and capital preservation over any two-year period
- Require some income but also some capital growth
- Wish to invest in a unit trust that complies with retirement fund investment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

Fund information on 29 February 2024

Fund size	R52.1bn
Number of units	567 279 116
Price (net asset value per unit)	R44.26
Class	A

Performance net of all fees and expenses

Value of R10 invested at inception with all distributions reinvested



1. The Fund's benchmark is the daily interest rate, as supplied by FirstRand Bank, plus 2%, performance as calculated by Allan Gray as at 29 February 2024.
2. This is based on the latest available numbers published by IRESS as at 31 January 2024.
3. 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).
4. The percentage of calendar months in which the Fund produced a positive monthly return since inception.
5. 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.
6. 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.

% Returns	Fund	Benchmark[1]	CPI inflation[2]
Cumulative:			
Since inception (1 July 2000)	1123.6	590.1	252.5
Annualised:			
Since inception (1 July 2000)	11.2	8.5	5.5
Latest 10 years	8.1	7.2	5.1
Latest 5 years	8.2	6.8	5.1
Latest 3 years	9.4	7.0	6.0
Latest 2 years	8.1	8.2	6.1
Latest 1 year	7.6	9.5	5.3
Year-to-date (not annualised)	1.2	1.5	0.1
Risk measures (since inception)			
Maximum drawdown[3]	-16.7	n/a	n/a
Percentage positive months[4]	77.8	100.0	n/a
Annualised monthly volatility[5]	5.1	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 Mar 2023	30 Jun 2023	30 Sep 2023	31 Dec 2023
Cents per unit	**37.7005***	**36.6206**	**44.1534**	**42.0767**

*This figure was restated on 30 November 2023 and corrected on the March 2023 to October 2023 factsheets to correct a reporting error. There was no financial impact on the Fund due to the error.

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 31 December 2023 (SA and Foreign) (updated quarterly)[7]

Company	% of portfolio
British American Tobacco	2.5
AB InBev	2.4
Woolworths	1.6
Standard Bank	1.4
Nedbank	1.4
Remgro	1.3
Marriott International	1.2
Glencore	1.2
Gold Fields	1.0
AngloGold Ashanti	0.9
Total (%)	**14.9**

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

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

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

TER and transaction costs breakdown for the 1- and 3-year period ending 31 December 2023	1yr %	3yr %
Total expense ratio	**1.68**	**1.58**
Fee for benchmark performance	1.01	1.01
Performance fees	0.47	0.37
Other costs excluding transaction costs	0.03	0.03
VAT	0.17	0.17
Transaction costs (including VAT)	**0.04**	**0.04**
Total investment charge	**1.72**	**1.62**

Top credit exposures on 31 December 2023 (SA and Foreign) (updated quarterly)[7,8]

Issuer	% of portfolio
Republic of South Africa	11.6
FirstRand Bank	8.1
Standard Bank	7.8
Absa	6.6
Investec Bank	3.1
Sasol	1.8
Northam Platinum	1.5
United States Treasury	1.4
Nedbank	1.2
South African Futures Exchange	1.2
Total (%)	**44.2**

Asset allocation on 29 February 2024[7]

Asset class	Total	South Africa	Foreign
Net equities	25.1	13.0	12.1
Hedged equities	19.5	8.6	10.9
Property	0.9	0.7	0.3
Commodity-linked	2.2	1.6	0.5
Bonds	33.3	25.1	8.2
Money market and bank deposits[9]	19.1	21.2	-2.1
Total (%)	**100.0**	**70.2**	**29.8[10]**

9. Including currency hedges.

10. 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	26.4%
Maximum	(December 2018) 39.6%

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

Fund manager quarterly commentary as at 31 December 2023

The Fund aims to deliver real absolute returns at low risk of capital loss through the cycle. The prospective returns available at any point in time in the cycle are to a large degree dependent on starting valuations. Given the Fund's significant exposure to fixed income instruments, the real returns offered by cash and low-duration bonds are an important determinant in delivering on its objective. The additional exposure to equities, capped at a maximum of 40% of the Fund, provides the opportunity to increase the overall return above that offered by fixed income.

Theoretically, the Fund's outlook is positive when real short-term interest rates are high, combined with cheap equities, and vice versa. In the second scenario, where we want to avoid overvalued equities by holding more cash, it is difficult to achieve the benchmark until equities are attractive enough to be upweighted. The Fund can invest up to 45% of its assets offshore. While we are unlikely to be at or close to this maximum, outside of extremes, the offshore exposure adds diversification. In our view, this offsets the potential increase in the short-term volatility of rand returns and protects against the risk of a substantially weaker currency.

So where are we at this point in the cycle?

Local fixed income is offering attractive real yields. We can construct a fixed income allocation for the Fund that not only has an attractive yield but also a low modified duration, which is a measure of risk to changes in interest rates. The Fund's local fixed income has a yield of 8.9% with a modified duration of 2.3. We have invested a third of our money market exposure into five-year fixed deposits yielding 10%. Offshore fixed income is attractive with hard currency US dollar short-term rates paying 5% and higher. This includes floating-rate debt in high-quality US financial institutions. While we might be close to the peak of the rate cycle, with the result that some of the high yields roll off over time, the yields remain attractive. We think there is a reasonable chance that rates stay higher than the market is currently discounting.

The Fund's net equity weighting of 25% is below the maximum of 40%. This reflects our efforts to balance the attractiveness of low-duration fixed income and the risks we see in equity markets. Many South African equities remain attractively valued, and this is similar globally – outside of the mega-cap US shares. One way to take advantage of this is to own the equities we think are attractive and then hedge out the overall equity market risk by selling index futures. When considering equities for the Fund, we think about how they would react in scenarios that may be negative for local fixed income. Gold mining shares such as Gold Fields, AngloGold and Barrick, are examples. In addition, we own high-quality global businesses, such as AB InBev and Marriott International.

While high real short-term rates offer an attractive opportunity locally, they are also a tough benchmark to outperform while simultaneously limiting risk of capital loss. We think carefully about constructing the portfolio and believe the current combination of assets increases the probability that the Fund will achieve and hopefully outperform its benchmark over the medium term.

Over the quarter, the Fund purchased longer-dated bank negotiable certificates of deposit, US dollar deposits and AB InBev and reduced its weightings in shorter-dated bank paper and Glencore.

Commentary contributed by Duncan Artus

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FTSE Russell Index

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Allan Gray Money Market Fund

29 February 2024

Fund description and summary of investment policy

The Fund invests in South African money market instruments with a term shorter than 13 months. These instruments can be issued by government, parastatals, corporates and banks. The Fund is managed to comply with regulations governing retirement funds.

While capital losses are unlikely, they can occur if, for example, one of the issuers of an instrument held by the Fund defaults. In this event losses will be borne by the Fund and its investors.

ASISA unit trust category: South African – Interest Bearing – Money Market

Fund objective and benchmark

The Fund aims to preserve capital, maintain liquidity and generate a sound level of income. The Fund's benchmark is the Alexander Forbes Short Term Fixed Interest (STeFI) Composite Index.

How we aim to achieve the Fund's objective

The Fund invests in selected money market instruments providing an income yield and a high degree of capital stability. We formulate an interest rate outlook, which is influenced by our inflation outlook and expectations of the resulting Reserve Bank policy response. Based on this analysis, we select investments for the Fund. These assets are typically held to maturity. We take a conservative approach to credit risk.

Suitable for those investors who

- Require monthly income distributions
- Are highly risk-averse but seek returns higher than bank deposits
- Need a short-term investment account

Fund information on 29 February 2024

Fund size	R28.9bn
Number of units	25 900 299 952
Price (net asset value per unit)	R1.00
Monthly yield at month end	0.69
Fund weighted average coupon (days)	78.35
Fund weighted average maturity (days)	105.36
Class	A

Income distribution for the last 12 months

Actual payout (cents per unit), the Fund distributes monthly

Mar 2023	Apr 2023	May 2023	Jun 2023
0.64	0.64	0.68	0.68
Jul 2023	**Aug 2023**	**Sep 2023**	**Oct 2023**
0.71	0.72	0.70	0.73
Nov 2023	**Dec 2023**	**Jan 2024**	**Feb 2024**
0.71	0.74	0.75	0.69

Performance net of all fees and expenses

% Returns	Fund	Benchmark[1]	CPI inflation[2]
Cumulative:			
Since inception (1 July 2001)	432.8	411.0	231.8
Annualised:			
Since inception (1 July 2001)	7.7	7.5	5.5
Latest 10 years	6.9	6.5	5.1
Latest 5 years	6.4	6.0	5.1
Latest 3 years	6.4	5.9	6.0
Latest 2 years	7.4	7.0	6.1
Latest 1 year	8.7	8.3	5.3
Year-to-date (not annualised)	1.4	1.4	0.1
Risk measures (since inception)			
Percentage positive months[3]	100.0	100.0	n/a
Annualised monthly volatility[4]	0.6	0.6	n/a
Highest annual return[5]	12.8	13.3	n/a
Lowest annual return[5]	4.3	3.8	n/a

1. The current benchmark is the Alexander Forbes Short Term Fixed Interest (STeFI) Composite Index. Since inception to 31 March 2003, the benchmark was the Alexander Forbes 3-Month Deposit Index. From 1 April 2003 to 31 October 2011 the benchmark was the Domestic Fixed Interest Money Market Collective Investment Scheme sector excluding the Allan Gray Money Market Fund, performance as calculated by Allan Gray as at 29 February 2024.
2. This is based on the latest available numbers published by IRESS as at 31 January 2024.
3. The percentage of calendar months in which the Fund produced a positive monthly return since inception.
4. 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.
5. 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 31 July 2003 and the benchmark's occurred during the 12 months ended 31 July 2003. The Fund's lowest annual return occurred during the 12 months ended 31 October 2021 and the benchmark's occurred during the 12 months ended 31 October 2021. All rolling 12-month figures for the Fund and the benchmark are available from our Client Service Centre on request.

Meeting the Fund objective

The Fund has preserved capital, maintained liquidity and generated a sound level of income.

Annual management fee

A fixed fee of 0.25% p.a. excl. VAT

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

The annual management fee is 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.

TER and transaction costs breakdown for the 1- and 3-year period ending 31 December 2023	1yr %	3yr %
Total expense ratio	**0.29**	**0.29**
Fee for benchmark performance	0.25	0.25
Performance fees	0.00	0.00
Other costs excluding transaction costs	0.00	0.00
VAT	0.04	0.04
Transaction costs (including VAT)	**0.00**	**0.00**
Total investment charge	**0.29**	**0.29**

Exposure by issuer on 29 February 2024

	% of portfolio
Corporates	**9.9**
Sanlam	2.5
Shoprite	2.3
Mercedes-Benz Group	2.3
Daimler Truck	2.1
Toyota Financial Services	0.7
Banks[6]	**50.6**
Nedbank	18.0
Standard Bank	11.5
Absa Bank	8.5
Investec Bank	7.5
FirstRand Bank	5.0
Governments	**39.5**
Republic of South Africa	39.5
Total (%)	**100.0**

6. Banks include negotiable certificates of deposit (NCDs), floating rate notes, fixed deposits and call deposits.

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

Fund manager quarterly commentary as at 31 December 2023

Over the course of 2023, the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) raised the overnight repo rate from 7.00% to 8.25%. In their final meeting for 2023, for the first time in the year, the committee members unanimously voted to keep the rate unchanged. Several SARB members have communicated that high rates have not been their ideal outcome but have been necessary, because the bank carries an outsized burden when it comes to stabilising South Africa's macro economy and inflation.

In this regard, the SARB repeatedly calls for government to share the burden with them via a prudent fiscal policy. While the SARB's preference would in fact be for lower interest rates and lower inflation, they have not been able to achieve this while government continues to run an imprudently high debt level which raises the country risk premium. This elevated country risk premium entrenches itself in national borrowing costs as foreign investors demand a higher interest rate to invest in the ever-growing supply of South African government debt and to refinance the debt of ailing state-owned entities like Eskom and Transnet. This country risk premium also contributes to a weaker rand exchange rate and ergo higher imported price inflation.

Beyond actively lowering their debt pile, the SARB also continues to recommend to government that they lower inflation by increasing the supply of energy and reducing real government wage growth so that it matches the weak economic productivity gains in our economy. The SARB's final bugbear is that administered prices, such as those for electricity, water, and rates and taxes, have been allowed to rise at double digits and faster than the country's targeted price inflation. Such pricing pressures necessitate that the SARB keep rates higher than they would prefer as a necessary evil that serves to lower consumer borrowing appetite and crush household demand. In theory, such action is meant to arrest any second-round price increases from taking hold.

While the market is pricing for the SARB to begin cutting interest rates in mid-2024, the SARB maintains that they will not provide future guidance on interest rates nor pre-commit to a specific policy path. The only hard promise that they will make is that they need to deliver on their mandate of lowering inflation to maintain price stability in the economy.

In the last quarter of 2023, the Fund raised its exposure to Treasury bills again as yields rose above bank deposit rates due to increased weekly government debt issuance in the face of a larger funding requirement. The weighted average yield of the Fund (gross of fees) started the 2023 year at 7.49% and ended the year at 9.45%, thus paying the highest rate of interest in the Fund in over 14 years.

Commentary contributed by Thalia Petousis

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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. 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 applicable taxes.

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.

The Allan Gray Money Market Fund is not a bank deposit account

The Fund aims to maintain a constant price of 100 cents per unit. The total return an investor receives is made up of interest received and any gain or loss made on instruments held by the Fund. While capital losses are unlikely, they can occur if, for example, one of the issuers of an instrument defaults. In this event, investors may lose some of their capital. To maintain a constant price of 100 cents per unit, investors' unit holdings will be reduced to the extent of such losses. The yield is calculated according to applicable ASISA standards. Excessive withdrawals from the Fund may place it under liquidity pressure; if this happens, withdrawals may be ring-fenced and managed over a period of time.

Purchase and redemption requests must be received by the Management Company by 11:00 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.

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).

Important information for investors

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You can obtain additional information about your proposed investment from Allan Gray free of charge either via our website **www.allangray.co.za** or via our Client Service Centre on **0860 000 654**

ALLANGRAY

Fund managers: This Fund invests solely into the Orbis Global Equity Fund, managed by Orbis Investment Management Limited **Inception date:** 1 April 2005

Allan Gray-Orbis Global Equity Feeder Fund

29 February 2024

Fund description and summary of investment policy

The Fund is a feeder fund and invests only in the Orbis Global Equity Fund, managed by Allan Gray's offshore investment partner, Orbis Investment Management Limited. The Orbis Global Equity Fund is designed to be exposed to all of the risks and rewards of selected global shares. Returns are likely to be volatile, especially over short- and medium-term periods. Although the Fund's investment universe is global, the units in the Fund are priced and traded daily in rands.

ASISA unit trust category: Global – Equity – General

Fund objective and benchmark

The Fund aims to outperform global stock markets over the long term, without taking on greater risk. Its benchmark is the MSCI World Index, including income, after withholding taxes.

How we aim to achieve the Fund's objective

The Fund invests only in the Orbis Global Equity Fund. The Orbis Global Equity Fund is designed to be exposed to all of the risks and rewards of selected global shares. Orbis uses in-house research to identify companies around the world whose shares can be purchased for less than Orbis' assessment of their long-term intrinsic value. This long-term perspective enables Orbis 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. This is the same approach as that used by Allan Gray to invest in South African equities, except that Orbis is able to choose from many more shares, listed internationally.

Suitable for those investors who

- Seek exposure to diversified international equities to provide long-term capital growth
- Wish to invest in international assets without having to personally expatriate rands
- Are comfortable with global stock market and currency fluctuation and risk of capital loss
- Typically have an investment horizon of more than five years
- Wish to use the Fund as a global equity 'building block' in a diversified multi-asset class portfolio

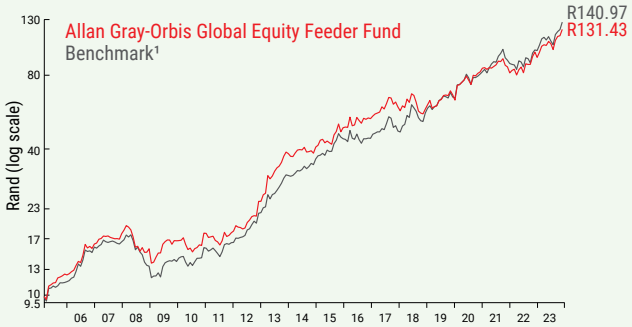
Note: The availability of the Fund is subject to offshore capacity constraints. Please contact our Client Service Centre for further information about any constraints that may apply.

Fund information on 29 February 2024

Fund size	R30.8bn
Number of units	235 251 995
Price (net asset value per unit)	R130.76
Class	A

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:	ZAR	US$	ZAR	US$	ZAR	US$
Since inception (1 April 2005)	1214.3	325.5	1309.7	356.4	177.8	60.4
Annualised:						
Since inception (1 April 2005)	14.6	8.0	15.0	8.4	5.6	2.5
Latest 10 years	12.7	6.3	15.9	9.3	5.1	2.8
Latest 5 years	16.6	9.4	19.1	11.7	5.1	4.2
Latest 3 years	14.6	5.3	18.2	8.6	6.0	5.7
Latest 2 years	19.8	7.4	20.2	7.8	6.1	4.7
Latest 1 year	24.4	18.9	30.8	25.0	5.3	3.1
Year-to-date (not annualised)	7.1	3.2	9.5	5.5	0.1	0.5
Risk measures (since inception)						
Maximum drawdown[3]	-34.1	-52.8	-38.0	-57.6	n/a	n/a
Percentage positive months[4]	63.4	58.6	61.2	63.4	n/a	n/a
Annualised monthly volatility[5]	15.2	17.2	14.4	16.0	n/a	n/a
Highest annual return[6]	78.2	64.1	54.2	58.4	n/a	n/a
Lowest annual return[6]	-29.7	-44.8	-32.7	-47.3	n/a	n/a

1. MSCI World Index, including income, after withholding taxes (source: Bloomberg), performance as calculated by Allan Gray as at 29 February 2024. From inception to 15 May 2023, the benchmark was the FTSE World Index, including income.
2. This data reflects the latest available inflation numbers for South Africa and the United States of America, as published by IRESS as of 31 January 2024.
3. Maximum percentage decline over any period. The maximum rand drawdown occurred from 6 June 2008 to 10 March 2009 and maximum benchmark drawdown occurred from 5 June 2008 to 6 March 2009. Drawdown is calculated on the total return of the Fund/benchmark (i.e. including income).
4. The percentage of calendar months in which the Fund produced a positive monthly return since inception.
5. 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.
6. 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 31 December 2013 and the benchmark's occurred during the 12 months ended 31 December 2013. The Fund's lowest annual return occurred during the 12 months ended 31 March 2009 and the benchmark's occurred during the 12 months ended 31 March 2009. All rolling 12-month figures for the Fund and the benchmark are available from our Client Service Centre on request.

Meeting the Fund objective

Since inception and over the latest 10- and five-year periods, the Fund has underperformed its benchmark. The Fund has provided returns in excess of CPI inflation for all three periods. The Fund experiences periods of underperformance in pursuit of its objective of creating long-term wealth for investors, without taking on greater risk of loss than the global stock market. The maximum drawdown and lowest annual return numbers, in the 'Performance net of all fees and expenses' table, show that the Fund has successfully reduced downside risk in periods of negative market returns.

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 annually.	31 Dec 2023
Cents per unit	**1.3302**

Annual management fee

Allan Gray does not charge an annual management fee but is paid a marketing and distribution fee by Orbis.

Orbis charges an annual management fee within the underlying Orbis Global Equity Fund. The fee rate is calculated based on the Orbis fund's performance relative to its benchmark. For more information please refer to the Orbis Global Equity Fund factsheet and prospectus, which can be found at www.orbis.com.

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

The annual management fee charged by Orbis is 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.

TER and transaction costs breakdown for the 1- and 3-year period ending 31 December 2023	1yr %	3yr %
Total expense ratio	**1.51**	**1.15**
Fee for benchmark performance	1.24	1.41
Performance fees	0.22	-0.31
Other costs excluding transaction costs	0.05	0.05
VAT	0.00	0.00
Transaction costs (including VAT)	**0.09**	**0.10**
Total investment charge	**1.60**	**1.25**

Top 10 share holdings on 29 February 2024

Company	% of portfolio
FLEETCOR Technologies	5.5
Sumitomo Mitsui Fin.	3.6
UnitedHealth Group	3.6
Interactive Brokers Group	3.6
Global Payments	3.5
GXO Logistics	3.2
Constellation Energy	3.0
Nintendo	3.0
British American Tobacco	3.0
BAE Systems	2.8
Total	**34.8**

Asset allocation on 29 February 2024

This fund invests solely into the Orbis Global Equity Fund

	Total	North America	Europe and UK	Japan	Asia ex-Japan	Other
Net equities	98.5	52.0	20.9	12.2	12.3	1.2
Hedged equities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Property	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Commodity-linked	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bonds	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Money market and cash	1.5	1.4	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Total	**100.0**	**53.5**	**20.7**	**12.2**	**12.4**	**1.2**
Currency exposure						
Fund	100.0	50.3	23.0	16.0	5.6	5.1
Benchmark	100.0	73.9	16.9	6.2	0.9	2.1

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

Fund manager quarterly commentary as at 31 December 2023

2023 felt like we were running on a treadmill, while Mr Market took the flying carpet. The Orbis Global Equity Fund returned 20.1% in dollars[1], an attractive absolute return, but not quite enough to match the benchmark[2], which rose 23.9%.

It's always frustrating to come up short versus our benchmark, even when absolute returns are good. But it's not uncommon for us to lag strongly rising markets, especially when they are driven by a handful of shares – in this case, the US technology companies dubbed the "magnificent seven": Apple, Microsoft, Alphabet, Amazon, Nvidia, Meta and Tesla.

In 2023, approximately 60% of the Fund was invested in winners versus the market, and our average winner won by as much as our average loser lost. If that were all we knew about performance in 2023, we would guess we had beaten the benchmark. But apart from a small position in Alphabet, the Fund did not own the magnificent seven, and not holding them dented relative returns three times more than the biggest loser actually owned by the Fund. While we prefer to focus on what's *in* the Fund, sometimes what *isn't* is the bigger driver of our returns versus the benchmark.

An intuitive (but flawed) understanding of passive investing would suggest that out of 100 active portfolios, an index tracker will come in 50th place. But 2023 showed that's not quite true. In a Monte Carlo simulation, had 100 investors picked 50 equal-weighted stocks at random from the MSCI World Index at the start of the year, a remarkable 92 of those portfolios would have trailed the Index.

In reality, global equity funds did better than just picking stocks at random. Still, the Index managed to beat 73% of active managers – a feat only topped during the build-up to the tech bubble in the 1990s.

2023 was an outlier on the positive side for indexation, but if a passive strategy can deliver a 92nd percentile result, then an 8th percentile result is also possible. That kind of outcome isn't just theoretical. A passive strategy lagged nearly all simulations as recently as 2009 (3rd percentile) and, before that, in 2000 (2nd percentile).

A passive approach, it turns out, is a distinct portfolio with its own risks and exposures. The difference is how the portfolio is constructed. While we build portfolios based on shares that we believe offer the most attractive value, traditional market capitalisation-weighted passive funds allocate strictly according to index weighting, paying no mind to value or risk.

By design, traditional index funds are naturally overexposed to the most overvalued parts of a market. It follows that the *environment where a passive approach will rank highest versus peers is one where the most overvalued shares get even more overvalued.*

Indeed, the more the valuation gap between overvalued and undervalued stocks widens, the more the passive strategy outperforms, the greater its allocation to the overvalued stocks, the more money it attracts to keep the cycle in motion – and the more risky it becomes.

The converse is also true: *the environment where a passive approach will do worst is one where the most overvalued shares sell off hardest (e.g. 2000) or the most overlooked shares recover most strongly (e.g. 2009).*

As a barometer of current market conditions, 2023's 92nd percentile performance from the Index is a fascinating tell – and 2023 isn't alone. Though 2022 was a break from the recent pattern, US index-tracking strategies have now beaten the combined wisdom of active investors for eight of the last 10 years.

Never before has following the crowd made so much money. Nor, in our estimation, so little sense. But just look at the opportunities the crowd has left for those of us willing to take a different view.

We could wax lyrical about the glaring difference in value between Korean banks priced at 4 times earnings, versus Apple at approximately 28 times, despite diverging fundamentals. Or how the thick margin of safety at Intel, backed by listed stakes and real saleable assets, compares to the slim margin for error at Nvidia, trading at 13 times 2024's projected revenue. We could marvel at Mr Market's willingness to extrapolate dominance for the magnificent seven while putting little value on Nintendo's exceptional intellectual property.

But those deep dives would only cover a fraction of the Fund, which risks diluting the message on how distorted the overall opportunity set has become.

Not since the inception of the first Orbis funds in 1990 has one country's benchmark weight punched so far above its share of global GDP (then Japan, now the US). Nor since Allan Gray's creation in 1973 have a handful of shares commanded such a large proportion of the market. Today, the magnificent seven stocks command as much market value as the five largest developed stock markets outside the US by market value, yet the magnificent seven contribute less than half the profits of those stock markets.

The decisions to launch investment funds at those times were far from coincidental. Our founder, Allan W B Gray, was always a big believer in putting clients first. He considered moments when the market was dominated by one hot theme to be invaluable opportunities for us to pick up the bargains left behind for our clients. Looking at today's distorted investment environment, we believe he'd be every bit as excited as we are.

We established a position in RenaissanceRe Holdings, a global provider of reinsurance. We also added to the Fund's position in Nintendo, a Japanese entertainment and game company. We exited the Fund's position in Samsung Electronics to concentrate capital in higher-conviction positions.

Adapted from a commentary contributed by Ben Preston, Orbis Portfolio Management (Europe) LLP, London and Eric Marais, Orbis Investment Advisory Pty Limited, Sydney

1. Net-of-fee return for 2023
2. MSCI World Index, including income, after withholding taxes (source: Bloomberg), performance as calculated by Allan Gray as at 31 December 2023. From inception to 15 May 2023, the benchmark was the FTSE World Index, including income.

The availability of the Fund is subject to offshore capacity constraints. Please contact our Client Service Centre for further information about any constraints that may apply.

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Management Company

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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.

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FTSE Russell Index

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ALLANGRAY

Fund managers: This Fund invests solely into the Orbis SICAV Global Balanced Fund, managed by Orbis Investment Management Limited. **Inception date:** 3 February 2004

Allan Gray-Orbis Global Balanced Feeder Fund

29 February 2024

Fund description and summary of investment policy[1]

The Fund is a feeder fund and invests only in the Orbis SICAV Global Balanced Fund ('Orbis Global Balanced'), managed by Allan Gray's offshore investment partner, Orbis Investment Management Limited. Orbis Global Balanced invests in a diversified global portfolio of equities, fixed income, and commodity-linked instruments. The typical net equity exposure of Orbis Global Balanced is between 40% and 75%. Orbis Global Balanced aims to balance investment returns and risk of loss. Returns are likely to be less volatile than those of a global equity-only fund. Although Orbis Global Balanced's investment universe is global, the units of the Fund are priced and traded daily in rands.

ASISA unit trust category: Global – Multi Asset – High Equity

Fund objective and benchmark[1]

The Fund aims to create long-term wealth for investors and to outperform its designated combined equity and bond performance benchmark, which comprises 60% the MSCI World Index with net dividends reinvested and 40% the J.P. Morgan Global Government Bond Index.

How we aim to achieve the Fund's objective

The Fund invests only in Orbis Global Balanced. Orbis Global Balanced is actively managed and invests in a diversified global portfolio of equities, fixed income, and commodity-linked instruments. Orbis Global Balanced targets an exposure of 40% to 90% of net asset value ('NAV') in equities, 10% to 50% in fixed income and 0% to 10% in commodity-linked instruments. The overall exposure to equities after hedging is intended to be limited to 75% of NAV. The weighting among the asset classes is driven by Orbis' bottom-up approach in selecting securities across asset classes and therefore may deviate substantially compared to the benchmark.

Like Allan Gray, Orbis uses in-house research to identify companies whose shares can be purchased for less than Orbis' assessment of their long-term intrinsic value. This long-term perspective enables them 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. A similar approach is applied in selecting fixed income instruments, which may consist of cash, cash equivalents, government bonds and investment-grade and high-yield corporate bonds and, at times, distressed corporate bonds. They are selected with the aim of increasing the overall risk-adjusted return.

When Orbis' research suggests that stock or bond markets are overvalued, Orbis may reduce exposure to those asset classes or hedge market risk using exchange-traded derivatives. Hedged equities may also be used as an alternative to holding fixed-income instruments and reduce overall portfolio risks. Commodity-linked instruments are included if Orbis' research identifies certain commodities as being more attractive on a risk-adjusted basis than overall equity or fixed-income opportunities. Currency exposure is actively managed to control exposure to currencies less likely to hold their long-term value in US dollars.

Suitable for those investors who

- Seek to balance investment returns and risk of loss, by investing in a diversified global multi-asset class portfolio
- Wish to invest in international assets without having to personally expatriate rands
- Are comfortable that the investment approach is likely to result in volatility and potential capital loss, but typically less volatility than that of a global equity-only fund
- Typically have an investment horizon of at least three to five years

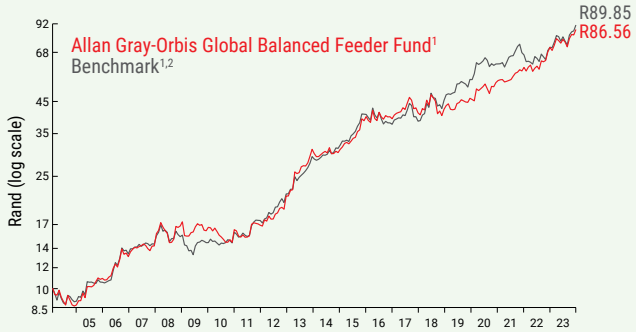
Note: The availability of the Fund is subject to offshore capacity constraints. Please contact our Client Service Centre for further information about any constraints that may apply.

Fund information on 29 February 2024

Fund size	R18.0bn
Number of units	245 117 474
Price (net asset value per unit)	R73.23
Class	A

Performance net of all fees and expenses

Value of R10 invested at inception with all distributions reinvested



% Returns	Fund[1]		Benchmark[1,2]		CPI inflation[3]	
Cumulative:	ZAR	US$	ZAR	US$	ZAR	US$
Since inception (3 February 2004)	765.6	216.5	798.5	228.5	189.2	66.2
Annualised:						
Since inception (3 February 2004)	11.4	6.0	11.6	6.2	5.5	2.6
Latest 10 years	10.9	4.6	11.8	5.5	5.1	2.8
Latest 5 years	14.2	7.1	13.4	6.4	5.1	4.2
Latest 3 years	15.3	6.0	11.4	2.4	6.0	5.7
Latest 2 years	17.1	5.0	13.3	1.6	6.1	4.7
Latest 1 year	16.2	11.1	20.4	15.1	5.3	3.1
Year-to-date (not annualised)	4.3	0.5	5.9	2.0	0.1	0.5
Risk measures (since inception)						
Maximum drawdown[4]	-24.0	-37.0	-25.1	-37.5	n/a	n/a
Percentage positive months[5]	58.5	60.2	58.1	63.1	n/a	n/a
Annualised monthly volatility[6]	13.5	11.8	12.9	10.5	n/a	n/a
Highest annual return[7]	55.6	43.8	38.8	37.6	n/a	n/a
Lowest annual return[7]	-13.7	-27.3	-17.0	-31.7	n/a	n/a

1. The Fund was converted from a fund of funds structure to a feeder fund structure and its name and benchmark were amended on 1 June 2021. For more information, please read 'Ballot underway for Allan Gray-Orbis Global Fund of Funds', available via the Latest insights section of our website.
2. 60% of the MSCI World Index with net dividends reinvested and 40% of the J.P. Morgan Global Government Bond Index (source: Bloomberg), performance as calculated by Allan Gray as at 29 February 2024. From inception to 31 May 2021, the benchmark was 60% of the FTSE World Index including income and 40% of the J.P. Morgan Global Government Bond Index.
3. This data reflects the latest available inflation numbers for South Africa and the United States of America, as published by IRESS as of 31 January 2024.
4. Maximum percentage decline over any period. The maximum rand drawdown occurred from 23 October 2008 to 14 October 2010 and maximum benchmark drawdown occurred from 23 October 2008 to 30 June 2009. Drawdown is calculated on the total return of the Fund/benchmark (i.e. including income).
5. The percentage of calendar months in which the Fund produced a positive monthly return since inception.
6. 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.
7. 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 31 December 2013 and the benchmark's occurred during the 12 months ended 31 December 2013. The Fund's lowest annual return occurred during the 12 months ended 31 October 2010 and the benchmark's occurred during the 12 months ended 30 June 2009. All rolling 12-month figures for the Fund and the benchmark are available from our Client Service Centre on request.

Meeting the Fund objective

Since inception and over the latest 10-year period, the Fund has underperformed its benchmark. Over the latest five-year period, the Fund has outperformed its benchmark. The Fund has provided returns in excess of CPI inflation for all three periods. The Fund experiences periods of underperformance in pursuit of its objective of creating long-term wealth for investors, without taking on greater risk of loss than similar funds in the Global – Multi Asset – High Equity sector.

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 annually.	31 Dec 2023
Cents per unit	**1.0560**

Annual management fee

Allan Gray does not charge an annual management fee but is paid a marketing and distribution fee by Orbis.

Orbis charges an annual management fee within the underlying Orbis SICAV Global Balanced Fund. The fee rate is calculated based on the Orbis fund's performance relative to its benchmark. For more information please refer to the Orbis SICAV Global Balanced Fund factsheet and prospectus, which can be found at www.orbis.com.

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

The annual management fee charged by Orbis is 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.

TER and transaction costs breakdown for the 1- and 3-year period ending 31 December 2023	1yr %	3yr %
Total expense ratio	**0.68**	**1.74**
Fee for benchmark performance	1.10	1.32
Performance fees	-0.48	0.36
Other costs excluding transaction costs	0.06	0.06
VAT	0.00	0.00
Transaction costs (including VAT)	**0.06**	**0.08**
Total investment charge	**0.74**	**1.82**

Top 10 holdings on 29 February 2024

Company	% of portfolio
SPDR Gold Trust	5.3
Samsung Electronics	4.2
Kinder Morgan	3.4
Taiwan Semiconductor Mfg.	3.0
Nintendo	2.5
Burford Capital	2.5
US TIPS 0.25% 15 Jul 2029	2.4
US TIPS 0.375% 15 Jul 2027	2.4
Mitsubishi Heavy Industries	2.4
Shell	1.9
Total (%)	**29.8**

Asset allocation on 29 February 2024

This fund invests solely into the Orbis SICAV Global Balanced Fund

	Total	North America	Europe and UK	Japan	Asia ex-Japan	Other
Net equities	57.7	12.2	20.0	9.2	13.9	2.4
Hedged equities	18.8	10.6	5.3	0.5	1.4	1.0
Property	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0
Commodity-linked	5.3	5.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bonds	16.5	12.4	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Money market and cash	1.3	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.1
Total	**100.0**	**40.6**	**29.9**	**10.3**	**15.6**	**3.6**
Currency exposure						
Fund	100.0	27.9	37.0	17.7	11.7	5.8
Benchmark	100.0	64.9	22.0	10.7	0.5	1.9

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

Fund manager quarterly commentary as at 31 December 2023

2023 was a healthy year for economies and markets, though a sometimes frustrating one for us. Across most of the developed world, interest rates rose, inflation slowed, wages grew, unemployment numbers napped, and equity markets flew. Central bankers have not quite toasted themselves for painlessly reducing inflation, but they have clearly started to chill the champagne. To many, the year felt like a warm encore to the investing environment of the last 15 years and a welcome pivot from 2022's tentative return to valuation rationality.

Company fundamentals, asset prices and common sense tell us that a re-run of the last 15 years is unlikely. Accordingly, the Fund hasn't changed much on the surface. Its asset class exposures are roughly where they were a year ago. Between regions, we still favour Japan, the UK and Europe over the US. Within sectors, our best ideas are still in energy, semiconductor manufacturers, energy transition businesses, financials and defence contractors, with minimal exposure to the US tech juggernauts that dominated markets in 2023. In part, that stability is deliberate. The classic value investor's mistake is to buy a cheap share on the way down, sweat anxiously until it starts to recover, then sell with relief as soon as it gets back to the purchase price. To us, that's like hopping off a train on the middle of a bridge. An extremely cheap stock that performs well may still be very cheap, and sometimes the hardest thing to do is sit on your hands.

Bottom-up rotation: energy, energy transition and semiconductors

But the Fund's apparent stability belies a number of changes under the surface. During the year, we made notable changes to the Fund's energy, energy transition and semiconductor holdings.

In energy, we trimmed exposure to oil and gas producers in favour of specialist service companies. As producers have ramped up supply, oil prices fell from an average of US$100 per barrel in 2022 to an average of US$85 in 2023. Higher supply is not great for producers, but it is rewarding for their service providers. Yet all of our services companies trade for less than 10 times what we expect them to earn in a few years.

We have also rotated within the Fund's energy transition holdings. Among utilities, we bought US nuclear energy generator Constellation, whose scale and cost advantages should help it benefit as reliable, clean power sources become more highly valued. And we added to our largest utility position, Drax, to take advantage of share price weakness driven by short-term concerns.

In semiconductors, we have written repeatedly about long-held Samsung Electronics and Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) which remain major holdings. In 2023, we bought Intel and added to memory maker Micron.

The memory chip industry has just rounded out a vicious downcycle, and the recovery should benefit both Micron and Samsung. Having consolidated from a half dozen competitors to just three, the industry is fundamentally better than it was a decade ago, but this is hardly reflected in valuations – Micron trades for about 10 times our estimates of 2025 earnings.

While Intel had fallen behind TSMC and Samsung in manufacturing, the company's shares got much cheaper in early 2023, and in an increasingly fraught environment where Taiwan is a flash point, being an American company with American factories is a huge asset. Even after a share price recovery in 2023, the valuation suggests the market remains sceptical.

Within stock markets, we still see plenty of value, but the MSCI World Index remains expensive in aggregate. While 2022 took some of the absurdity out of valuations, the bubble was just starting to unwind. In 2023, richly priced shares got richer while cheap stocks mostly stayed cheap.

Walk on the mild side

That creates interesting conditions on the lower-risk side of the Fund.

Hedged equity remains a wonderful tool for us. When we buy undervalued shares and sell their local market index, we capture the relative return of our stocks versus the index, plus a cash interest rate. In the US, that cash-like return is now 5% p.a. – a nice boost for our hedged equity exposure.

In bonds, the real yield on a 10-year US Treasury Inflation Protected Security, or TIPS, is now a little less than 2%, against market inflation expectations of 2.2% for the foreseeable future. That combination looks attractive to us, and it raises the bar for everything else in the Fund. If a super liquid, super safe, reasonably stable asset will give us about 2% per year after inflation, anything riskier we buy needs to offer substantially higher returns. Today, we can find higher returns without leaving the bond world, and our team has uncovered a number of attractive corporate bond ideas.

Which leaves gold. In 2023, gold managed to beat bonds and set a new record high. We clipped the position into this strength, but we continue to like the diversification gold brings to the Fund.

A better balance

We continue to think our Fund offers a better balance of risk and return than the benchmark, aided by the diversification provided from assets that can hold their own against inflation. For risk management, that diversification is helpful. But we have always believed the best way to reduce risk without sacrificing return is to simply own undervalued assets. In aggregate, the equities in Global Balanced trade at just 16 times earnings, compared to 24 times for the MSCI World Index. That leaves us excited by the low expectations and undervaluation we see across the Fund.

We added to the Fund's exposure to TIPS, as we believe the exposure offers low risk, a positive real yield and inflation protection at a reasonable price. We exited our position in Bayer in order to reallocate capital to higher-conviction holdings.

Adapted from a commentary contributed by Alec Cutler, Orbis Investment Management Limited, Bermuda

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MSCI Index

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ALLANGRAY

Fund manager: Duncan Artus (The underlying Orbis funds are managed by Orbis)
Inception date: 2 March 2010

Allan Gray-Orbis Global Optimal Fund of Funds

29 February 2024

Fund description and summary of investment policy

The Fund invests in a mix of absolute return funds managed by Allan Gray's offshore investment partner, Orbis Investment Management Limited. The typical net equity exposure of the Fund is between 0% and 20%. The Orbis Optimal SA funds included in the Fund use exchange-traded derivative contracts on stock market indices to reduce net equity exposure. In these funds, the market exposure of equity portfolios is effectively replaced with cash-like exposure, plus or minus Orbis' skills in delivering returns above or below the market. Returns are likely to be less volatile than those of a foreign equity or balanced fund. Although the Fund's investment universe is global, the units in the Fund are priced and traded daily in rands. When considered in rands, returns of this foreign fund are likely to be more volatile than domestic funds with similar equity constraints.

ASISA unit trust category: Global – Multi Asset – Low Equity

Fund objective and benchmark

The Fund aims to provide a high degree of capital stability (when measured in the foreign currency denominations of the underlying Orbis Funds), while producing long-term returns that are superior to foreign currency bank deposits. The Fund's benchmark is the simple average of the benchmarks of the underlying Orbis funds.

How we aim to achieve the Fund's objective

The Fund invests only in the Optimal SA absolute return funds managed by our offshore investment partner, Orbis Investment Management Limited. Within the Optimal funds, Orbis uses in-house research to identify companies around the world whose shares can be purchased for less than Orbis' assessment of their long-term intrinsic value. This long-term perspective enables them 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. This is the same approach as that used by Allan Gray to invest in South African equities, except that Orbis is able to choose from many more shares, listed internationally. The Orbis Optimal SA funds reduce most of their stock market risk by the use of exchange-traded derivative futures contracts. The Orbis Optimal SA funds will typically retain a small portion of their exposure to equity markets, but the level of exposure may be varied depending on Orbis' assessment of the potential returns on global stock markets relative to their risk of capital loss. The underlying funds' returns are therefore derived partly from their relatively low exposure to stock markets, partly from Orbis' selected share returns relative to those markets, and partly from foreign currency cash-equivalent returns. The Fund's currency exposure is actively managed both within the underlying Orbis funds and through our selection of Orbis funds.

Suitable for those investors who

- Seek steady absolute returns ahead of those of cash measured in global currencies
- Wish to invest in international assets without having to personally expatriate rands
- Are comfortable with taking on the risk of currency fluctuation, but prefer little exposure to stock market risk
- Wish to use the Fund as a foreign absolute return 'building block' in a diversified multi-asset class portfolio

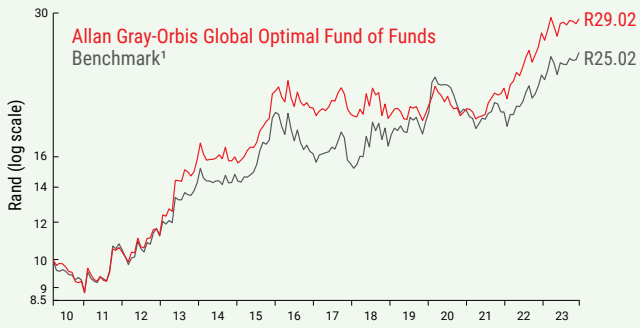
Note: The availability of the Fund is subject to offshore capacity constraints. Please contact our Client Service Centre for further information about any constraints that may apply.

Fund information on 29 February 2024

Fund size	R1.2bn
Number of units	40 455 426
Price (net asset value per unit)	R28.97
Class	A

Performance net of all fees and expenses

Value of R10 invested at inception with all distributions reinvested



1. The simple average of the benchmarks of the underlying funds, performance as calculated by Allan Gray as at 29 February 2024.
2. This data reflects the latest available inflation numbers for South Africa and the United States of America, as published by IRESS as of 31 January 2024.
3. Maximum percentage decline over any period. The maximum rand drawdown occurred from 18 May 2016 to 24 March 2017 and maximum benchmark drawdown occurred from 18 January 2016 to 23 February 2018. Drawdown is calculated on the total return of the Fund/benchmark (i.e. including income).
4. The percentage of calendar months in which the Fund produced a positive monthly return since inception.
5. 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.
6. 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 31 December 2013 and the benchmark's occurred during the 12 months ended 31 January 2016. The Fund's lowest annual return occurred during the 12 months ended 31 May 2017 and the benchmark's occurred during the 12 months ended 28 February 2017. All rolling 12-month figures for the Fund and the benchmark are available from our Client Service Centre on request.

% Returns	Fund		Benchmark[1]		CPI inflation[2]	
Cumulative:	ZAR	US$	ZAR	US$	ZAR	US$
Since inception (2 March 2010)	190.2	16.0	150.2	0.0	100.7	42.5
Annualised:						
Since inception (2 March 2010)	7.9	1.0	6.8	0.0	5.1	2.6
Latest 10 years	6.2	0.2	5.7	-0.3	5.1	2.8
Latest 5 years	8.8	2.1	7.5	0.8	5.1	4.2
Latest 3 years	14.2	5.0	8.9	0.1	6.0	5.7
Latest 2 years	16.6	4.6	14.0	2.2	6.1	4.7
Latest 1 year	6.4	1.7	10.5	5.6	5.3	3.1
Year-to-date (not annualised)	1.0	-2.7	3.6	-0.2	0.1	0.5
Risk measures (since inception)						
Maximum drawdown[3]	-18.9	-31.3	-26.6	-16.1	n/a	n/a
Percentage positive months[4]	52.4	54.8	48.2	48.8	n/a	n/a
Annualised monthly volatility[5]	13.3	7.1	13.8	4.3	n/a	n/a
Highest annual return[6]	39.6	14.4	35.6	9.4	n/a	n/a
Lowest annual return[6]	-12.4	-15.3	-19.1	-11.6	n/a	n/a

Meeting the Fund objective

Since inception and over the latest 10- and five-year periods, the Fund has outperformed its benchmark. There has been some volatility in the Fund's returns. The underlying funds' maximum drawdowns to date, in their reporting currencies, are 23% for the Orbis Optimal SA Dollar class and 28% for the Orbis Optimal SA Euro class.

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 annually.	31 Dec 2023
Cents per unit	**0.3632**

Annual management fee

Allan Gray does not charge an annual management fee but is paid a marketing and distribution fee by Orbis.

Orbis charges annual management fees within the underlying Orbis funds. Each fund's fee rate is calculated based on the fund's performance relative to its own benchmark. For more information please refer to the Orbis Optimal SA Fund factsheets and prospectus, which can be found at www.orbis.com.

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

The annual management fees charged by 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.

TER and transaction costs breakdown for the 1- and 3-year period ending 31 December 2023	1yr %	3yr %
Total expense ratio	**1.06**	**1.07**
Fee for benchmark performance	0.99	1.00
Performance fees	-0.01	-0.01
Other costs excluding transaction costs	0.08	0.08
VAT	0.00	0.00
Transaction costs (including VAT)	**0.12**	**0.13**
Total investment charge	**1.18**	**1.20**

Top 10 share holdings on 29 February 2024

Company	% of portfolio
FLEETCOR Technologies	3.8
British American Tobacco	3.0
Taiwan Semiconductor Mfg.	2.8
UnitedHealth Group	2.6
Motorola Solutions	2.5
Bayerische Motoren Werke	2.3
London Stock Exchange Group	2.2
Elevance Health	2.1
Shell	2.0
Howmet Aerospace	1.9
Total (%)	**25.2**

Fund allocation on 29 February 2024

Foreign absolute return funds	%
Orbis Optimal SA (US$)	62.0
Orbis Optimal SA (Euro)	38.0
Total (%)	**100.0**

Asset allocation on 29 February 2024

	Total	North America	Europe and UK	Japan	Asia ex-Japan	Other
Net equities	3.0	0.0	2.4	0.1	-0.3	0.9
Hedged equities	85.9	36.8	21.4	19.3	8.4	0.0
Property	2.0	0.8	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.0
Commodity-linked	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bonds	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Money market and cash	9.0	5.2	-0.8	3.7	1.0	0.0
Total	**100.0**	**42.7**	**23.0**	**24.2**	**9.1**	**0.9**
Currency exposure						
Fund	100.0	56.3	37.0	5.8	0.9	0.0

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

Fund manager quarterly commentary as at 31 December 2023

This Fund is designed to protect against broad stock market declines, while at the same time delivering attractive returns that can help compound wealth over time. The Fund also has a valuable role to play as a portfolio diversification tool given that its returns have been largely uncorrelated with other assets such as equities, bonds and cash.

To keep things simple, there are two key variables that really matter when thinking about the Fund. The first is the so-called equity risk premium, or the excess return that the stock market delivers above cash. By hedging stock market exposure, the Fund effectively "gives back" this equity risk premium but retains the return on cash, so it misses out on an important source of returns when stock markets are strong. On the flip side, it also misses out on large losses thanks to hedging. The second key variable is alpha, or the extent to which our stock selections add or detract value. As a relative measure, alpha is not correlated with the broader stock market – we can either add or detract value regardless of what the market itself is doing.

The ideal outcome for the Fund is when stock markets decline and our alpha is robust. The worst case for the Fund is when markets are booming, and our stock selections are poor. For much of the period following the global financial crisis, the Fund suffered from a "perfect storm" of unusually strong stock markets, near-zero rates on cash and a difficult period for alpha generation at Orbis.

The past three years have been more encouraging. Over this period, the equity risk premium has come down from historically elevated levels. Stock markets have been resilient, but interest rates have risen, so the gap has narrowed substantially. Our stock selection results have also improved. The Fund's three-year net-of-fee return of 6.3% p.a. in US dollars compares favourably to an unhedged return of 7.4% p.a. on global equities over that period, which came with much more volatility. The Fund has also earned its keep as a portfolio diversifier, with government bonds – a traditional safe-haven asset – posting losses over the past three years.

That said, we will avoid celebrating just yet as our longer-term alpha – the Fund's lifeblood – remains below what we aspire to achieve for clients. We remain optimistic given that global equity markets have fully recovered to their previous "Everything Bubble"-era peak. Despite the drawdown in 2022, the S&P 500 has managed to defy gravity longer than usual when compared to similar historical episodes. Macro and geopolitical risks continue to loom larger than usual, making the Fund's built-in downside protection appealing.

At the same time, there are still wide dispersions between the cheapest and most expensive stocks – creating fertile conditions for our stockpickers to add value. Indeed, we have had no trouble finding shares for the Fund that appear attractive based on cheaper-than-average valuations or superior fundamentals.

In some ways, we find ourselves at a "back to the future" moment that is reminiscent of late 2021 or early 2022. Back then it wasn't clear if stock markets could sustain their momentum or if they would decline, and we see no point in making those predictions. Our solution today – as it was back then – is to let valuation be our guide and concentrate our clients' capital in our highest-conviction opportunities. For the Fund, the result should be a well-balanced and idiosyncratic portfolio that continues to provide downside protection and a differentiated return over the long term.

The Fund's overall net equity exposure rose over the quarter. We established a new position in a UK-based financial data provider and purchased a UK-based aerospace company. We exited positions in Intertek Group, a UK-based professional services company, and NVR, a US homebuilder, in order to rotate capital into higher-conviction ideas.

Adapted from a commentary contributed by John Christy, Orbis Investments (Canada) Ltd., Vancouver

The availability of the Fund is subject to offshore capacity constraints. Please contact our Client Service Centre for further information about any constraints that may apply.

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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).

Fund of funds

A fund of funds is a unit trust that invests in other unit trusts, which charge their own fees. Allan Gray does not charge any additional fees in its funds of funds.

FTSE Russell Index

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MSCI Index

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