

**Fund managers:** Duncan Artus, Pieter Koornhof, Rory Kutisker–Jacobson, Siphesihle Zwane, Tim Acker **Inception date:** 13 March 2015

## Fund description and summary of investment policy

The Fund invests in shares listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE). 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 South African equity market over the long term, without taking on greater risk. To pursue its objective the Fund's portfolio may differ materially from its benchmark. 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 FTSE/JSE All Share Index including income.

## 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 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. We invest in a selection of shares across all sectors of the JSE, and across the range of large, mid and smaller cap shares.

#### Suitable for those investors who

- Seek exposure to JSE-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 30 June 2024

Fund size	R3.7bn
Number of units	868 010
Price (net asset value per unit)	R464.60
Class	А

- FTSE/JSE All Share Index including income (source: IRESS), performance as calculated by Allan Gray as at 30 June 2024.
- 2. This is based on the latest available numbers published by IRESS as at 31 May 2024.
- 3. Maximum percentage decline over any period. The maximum drawdown for the Fund occurred from 25 January 2018 to 23 March 2020 and maximum benchmark drawdown occurred from 17 January 2020 to 19 March 2020. Drawdown is calculated on the total return of the Fund/benchmark (i.e. including income).
- The percentage of calendar months in which the Fund produced a positive monthly return since inception.
- 5. The standard deviation of 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 of the Fund. 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 March 2021 and the benchmark's occurred during the 12 months ended 31 March 2021. The Fund's lowest annual return occurred during the 12 months ended 31 March 2020. All rolling 12-month figures for the Fund and the benchmark are available from our Client Service Centre on request.

## Performance net of all fees and expenses

Value of R10 invested at inception with all distributions reinvested



% Returns	Fund	Benchmark <sup>1</sup>	CPI inflation <sup>2</sup>
Cumulative:			
Since inception (13 March 2015)	83.0	110.1	60.1
Annualised:			
Since inception (13 March 2015)	6.7	8.3	5.2
Latest 5 years	9.2	10.6	5.0
Latest 3 years	11.7	11.0	6.0
Latest 2 years	11.3	14.2	5.7
Latest 1 year	10.5	9.1	5.2
Year-to-date (not annualised)	3.4	5.8	2.3
Risk measures (since inception)			
Maximum drawdown <sup>3</sup>	-44.3	-35.2	n/a
Percentage positive months <sup>4</sup>	58.0	56.3	n/a
Annualised monthly volatility <sup>5</sup>	14.6	14.7	n/a
Highest annual return <sup>6</sup>	57.3	54.0	n/a
Lowest annual return <sup>6</sup>	-32.0	-18.4	n/a



**Fund managers:** Duncan Artus, Pieter Koornhof, Rory Kutisker–Jacobson, Siphesihle Zwane, Tim Acker **Inception date:** 13 March 2015

## **Fund history**

The Allan Gray Equity Fund was managed in exactly the same way as this Fund from the inception of the Allan Gray Equity Fund on 1 October 1998, until March 2015, when the Allan Gray Equity Fund changed its mandate to include the ability to invest offshore. A combined history of the two funds since inception of the Allan Gray Equity Fund can be viewed here.

## Meeting the Fund objective

The Fund aims to outperform the South African equity market over the long term, without taking on greater risk. The Fund experiences periods of underperformance in pursuit of this objective. Since inception and over the latest five-year period, the Fund has underperformed its benchmark.

#### 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.	31 Dec 2023	30 Jun 2024
Cents per unit	949.678	1187.0242

## Annual management fee

Allan Gray charges a fee based on the net asset value of the Fund. 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 20% of annualised performance relative to the benchmark.

## Total expense ratio (TER) and transaction costs

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.

## Top 10 share holdings on 30 June 2024 (updated quarterly)

Company	% of portfolio	
Naspers & Prosus	7.7	
British American Tobacco	7.3	
AB InBev	6.8	
Standard Bank	5.4	
Mondi	4.7	
Glencore	4.7	
Nedbank	4.1	
Woolworths	4.0	
FirstRand	3.5	
Sappi	2.7	
Total (%)	50.9	

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

TER and transaction costs breakdown for the 1- and 3-year period ending 30 June 2024	1yr %	3yr %
Total expense ratio	0.61	0.83
Fee for benchmark performance	1.00	1.00
Performance fees	-0.48	-0.29
Other costs excluding transaction costs	0.01	0.01
VAT	0.08	0.11
Transaction costs (including VAT)	0.10	0.11
Total investment charge	0.71	0.93

## Sector allocation on 30 June 2024

(updated quarterly)

Sector	% of equities <sup>7</sup>	% of ALSI <sup>8</sup>
Financials	28.0	29.4
Basic materials	22.1	21.4
Consumer staples	20.5	11.6
Consumer discretionary	9.8	7.7
Technology	8.0	14.2
Industrials	7.0	3.9
Telecommunications	2.0	4.1
Healthcare	1.1	4.5
Real estate	0.9	2.1
Energy	0.5	1.0
Total (%)	100.0	100.0

- 7. Includes listed property.
- 8. FTSE/JSE All Share Index.

### Asset allocation on 30 June 2024

Asset class	Total
Net equity	95.0
Hedged equity	0.0
Property	1.1
Commodity-linked	0.9
Bonds	0.0
Money market and cash	3.0
Total (%)	100.0

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



30 June 2024

**ALLANGRAY** 

**Fund managers:** Duncan Artus, Pieter Koornhof, Rory Kutisker–Jacobson, Siphesihle Zwane, Tim Acker **Inception date:** 13 March 2015

Global markets continued to defy macroeconomic warning signs in 2024, with the S&P 500 up 15% year to date, following a 26% run in 2023, and finishing the quarter close to an all-time high. Returns were driven by a few large stocks: just under one-third of the S&P 500's 2024 performance was contributed by Nvidia alone and two-thirds contributed by the magnificent seven stocks. Artificial intelligence mania and a renewed belief in sustainably lower US inflation and interest rates (without necessitating a recession) drove the optimism.

We remain cautious of the consensus view: In the US, financial conditions are easier today than when the Federal Reserve first started raising interest rates in March 2022. Unemployment remains very low, contributing to stillstrong growth in wages. There are also spending drivers that we believe could contribute to structurally higher developed market inflation going forward: the fragmentation of supply chains as countries prioritise security of supply over the cost of production, increased defence spending – given heightened geopolitical tensions – and the mandate to transition away from old-world energy to renewables. There are already smoke signals that a return to 2% US inflation may not be as smooth as hoped, given that US services inflation continues to run greater than 5%. As such, we subscribe to the view of higher developed market inflation for longer. Provided central banks stick to their nerve, this will necessitate higher interest rates for longer. Despite the heightened risk this poses to company earnings, the S&P 500 equity risk premium (the additional return the stock market provides above the risk-free rate) is at a 20-year low. Put differently, investors are not being sufficiently compensated to assume the risks discussed above.

Closer to home, South Africa concluded national government elections in late May, with a historic fall in support for the ruling African National Congress. While local assets initially reacted negatively to the uncertainty this posed, the market subsequently cheered at the announcement of a government of national unity (GNU) anchored by the centrist parties. The broader FTSE/JSE All Share Index returned 8% for the quarter, led by outperformance from stocks facing the local economy: banks rallied 20%, insurers 18%, retailers 13% and healthcare stocks

12%. By the end of the quarter, the rand also strengthened 4% versus the US dollar from its post-election trough in early June.

As a nation, we should be proud that the incumbent government has thus far transitioned power peacefully, in line with the will of the people. The GNU outcome also removes some of the extreme left-tail negative risk that presided over South African assets prior to the election and increases the chance of a right-tail positive scenario for the country. However, we are wary of local stock prices running ahead of their fundamentals on hope alone. There are many ideological differences that the GNU needs to work through, and coalition experience at local government level shows outcomes are rarely smooth. South Africa faces significant economic headwinds that need to reverse course for local companies to grow their earnings in real terms (which they have struggled to do over the last decade). Some of these headwinds are out of our control, even with the best-intentioned political dispensation (e.g. our dependence on the Chinese economy).

2024 is a year of heightened risk, where stock returns under different scenarios could be bifurcated. As such, we have positioned the Fund to limit downside risk rather than swinging for the fences by taking strong positions at extremes. The Fund is tilted towards favouring companies that have real pricing power, relatively defensive demand and a healthy proportion of fixed-rate debt (British American Tobacco and AB InBev are good examples here). In addition, we prefer companies with self-help levers to improve their economics rather than being fully reliant on a stronger local economy. Woolworths and Remgro are relevant examples in this category.

During the quarter, the Fund added to its positions in AB InBev and Standard Bank and reduced its holdings in MultiChoice and Sibanye-Stillwater.

Commentary contributed by Jithen Pillay

Fund manager quarterly commentary as at 30 June 2024



**Fund managers:** Duncan Artus, Pieter Koornhof, Rory Kutisker–Jacobson, Siphesihle Zwane, Tim Acker **Inception date:** 13 March 2015

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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 <u>frequently asked questions</u>, 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.

#### MSCI Index

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#### FTSE Russell Index

Source: London Stock Exchange Group plc and its group undertakings (collectively, the "LSE Group"). 
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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



Fund manager: Sean Munsie Inception date: 1 October 2002

## Fund description and summary of investment policy

The Fund invests mainly in selected shares and it uses exchange-traded derivative contracts on stock market indices to substantially reduce its net equity exposure to within a range of 0-20%. As a result, the Fund's return depends on the level of short-term interest rates (implicit in the pricing of the sold futures contracts) and the performance of the Fund's selected shares relative to the stock market index. The Fund's return is therefore unlikely to be correlated with equity market returns. In addition, a portion of the Fund is typically invested in cash and margin deposits.

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

## Fund objective and benchmark

The Fund aims to provide investors with long-term positive returns higher than those available in the money market sector, irrespective of stock market returns. The Fund's benchmark is the daily interest rate as supplied by FirstRand Bank Limited.

## How we aim to achieve the Fund's objective

The Fund invests in selected shares and seeks to substantially reduce stock market risk by selling exchange-traded equity index derivatives. The selected share portfolio is derived from our thorough research process, but the selection of equities in this Fund may differ from that in the other Allan Gray funds. The deviation of the Fund's selected share portfolio from the composition of the underlying benchmark indices (on which the derivative contracts are based) is restricted and closely monitored. This does not eliminate the risk of capital loss should the selected equities underperform.

## Suitable for those investors who

- Seek absolute (i.e. positive) returns regardless of stock market trends
- Require a high degree of capital stability over a 3-year time horizon
- Wish to invest in a product that offers uncorrelated returns relative to shares or bonds as a 'building block' in a diversified multi-asset class portfolio

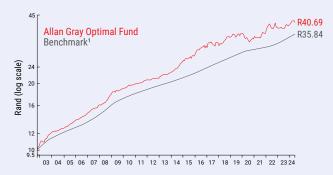
## Fund information on 30 June 2024

Fund size	R0.8bn
Number of units	21 995 510
Price (net asset value per unit)	R23.42
Class	А

- The Fund's benchmark is the daily interest rate, as supplied by FirstRand Bank, performance as calculated by Allan Gray as at 30 June 2024.
- 2. This is based on the latest available numbers published by IRESS as at 31 May 2024.
- Maximum percentage decline over any period. The maximum drawdown occurred from 6 February 2020 to 15 September 2020. Drawdown is calculated on the total return of the Fund (i.e. including income).
- The percentage of calendar months in which the Fund produced a positive monthly return since inception.
- The standard deviation of the Fund's monthly return. This
  is a measure of how much an investment's return varies
  from its average over time.
- 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 2003 and the benchmark's occurred during the 12 months ended 30 September 2003. The Fund's lowest annual return occurred during the 12 months ended 31 August 2020 and the benchmark's occurred during the 12 months ended 30 November 2021. All rolling 12-month figures for the Fund and the benchmark are available from our Client Service Centre on request.

## Performance net of all fees and expenses

Value of R10 invested at inception with all distributions reinvested



% Returns	Fund	Benchmark <sup>1</sup>	CPI inflation <sup>2</sup>
Cumulative:			_
Since inception (1 October 2002)	306.9	258.4	205.0
Annualised:			
Since inception (1 October 2002)	6.7	6.0	5.3
Latest 10 years	5.2	5.2	5.0
Latest 5 years	3.3	4.8	5.0
Latest 3 years	5.6	5.4	6.0
Latest 2 years	3.1	6.7	5.7
Latest 1 year	6.9	7.5	5.2
Year-to-date (not annualised)	3.0	3.7	2.3
Risk measures (since inception)			
Maximum drawdown <sup>3</sup>	-10.2	n/a	n/a
Percentage positive months <sup>4</sup>	73.2	100.0	n/a
Annualised monthly volatility <sup>5</sup>	4.4	0.6	n/a
Highest annual return <sup>6</sup>	18.1	11.9	n/a
Lowest annual return <sup>6</sup>	-8.2	2.5	n/a



Fund manager: Sean Munsie Inception date: 1 October 2002

## Meeting the Fund objective

Since inception the Fund has outperformed its benchmark. Over the latest 10- and five-year periods, the Fund has underperformed its benchmark which is the daily interest rate supplied by FirstRand Bank Limited. The Fund aims to deliver long-term positive returns, irrespective of stock 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.	31 Dec 2023	30 Jun 2024
Cents per unit	48.3060	59.0784

## Annual management fee

The fee rate is calculated daily by comparing the Fund's total performance to that of the benchmark.

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

The Fund is first required to recover any underperformance before a fee higher than the fee for performance equal to the benchmark can be charged. This is known as a high watermark. If the Fund's performance is above its previous high watermark, we add 0.2% to the fee for each percentage of performance above the high watermark. The fee is uncapped.

## Total expense ratio (TER) and transaction costs

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.

# Top 10 share holdings on 30 June 2024 (updated quarterly)

Company	% of portfolio	
British American Tobacco	8.3	
Naspers & Prosus	8.1	
AB InBev	6.4	
AngloGold Ashanti	5.2	
Sasol	5.1	
Gold Fields	4.8	
Mondi	4.3	
FirstRand	4.2	
Sappi	3.9	
Anglo American	3.7	
Total (%)	53.9	

## Asset allocation on 30 June 2024

Asset class	Total
Net equities	1.9
Hedged equities	83.8
Property	0.8
Commodity-linked	0.0
Bonds	0.0
Money market and cash	13.4
Total (%)	100.0

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

TER and transaction costs breakdown for the 1- and 3-year period ending 30 June 2024	1yr %	3yr %
Total expense ratio	1.18	1.18
Fee for benchmark performance	1.00	1.00
Performance fees	0.00	0.00
Other costs excluding transaction costs	0.03	0.03
VAT	0.15	0.15
Transaction costs (including VAT)	0.14	0.14
Total investment charge	1.32	1.32

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

Minimum	(September 2016) -3.6% <sup>7</sup>
Average	4.6%
Maximum	(November 2018) 15.4%

7. The negative net equity exposure as at 30 September 2016 is due to the cash acquisition of SABMiller by Anheuser-Busch In-Bev. This was corrected and the Fund had a positive net equity exposure by 4 October 2016.

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

## **Allan Gray Optimal Fund**

30 June 2024

ALLANGRAY

Fund manager: Sean Munsie Inception date: 1 October 2002

In a welcome change from the recent past, the local market outperformed its global peers in the second quarter, as the uncertainty around the outcome of the South African national elections began to clear and a more centrist coalition government than some had initially feared emerged. The FTSE/JSE All Share Index added 8.2% for the quarter, reversing the losses it incurred in the first quarter and taking the year-to-date return to 5.8%. The FTSE/JSE Financials Index, which comprises mostly banks and insurers predominantly exposed to the domestic economy, was the main driver, rallying 17.8%. This came on the back of a rally in South African government bonds from depressed levels as yield differentials to both the US and emerging market peers (i.e. risk premiums) narrowed. The beleaguered rand strengthened by more than 3% versus the US dollar.

While the political developments were well-received by markets, there remains cause to temper some of the enthusiasm shown to date. If the formation of a coalition government proved difficult, the setting of policy priorities and ongoing decision-making may be harder still. Opposing ideologies between (and, in some cases, within) the various political parties add complexity. And parties outside of the coalition may have a destabilising effect as they exert their influence. Indeed, this has been the undoing of coalition agreements at a municipal level in the past.

Politics aside, the structural factors that contribute to our low-growth environment, including failing state-owned enterprises, weak law enforcement, skills shortages and expanding fiscal deficits, remain. It was these factors which ultimately undid the initial bout of Ramaphoria in 2018. Fast-forward to

2024, and these aspects are now partly captured by the valuations at which our local assets trade. Therefore, any improvements in this regard, off a lower base, may contribute to improved investment outcomes.

The Fund's return for the quarter was a disappointing -1.8%, which takes the year-to-date return to 3.0%.

Foremost amongst the detractors for the quarter were:

- An underweight position in Anglo American a large share in the index. Heading into the second quarter, we did not have exposure to Anglo American. Instead, we preferred other miners like Glencore, South32 and African Rainbow Minerals. During the quarter, diversified miner BHP attempted a takeover of Anglo American. This saw the share rally by almost 20% in a single day at one point.
- An underweight exposure to local banks which performed strongly.
   Banks now account for nearly a quarter of the local index.
- A weak quarter for some of our higher-conviction, overweight positions including Sappi, Sasol, British American Tobacco and AB InBev.

This quarter, the Fund initiated new positions in Anglo American and Italtile, added to its existing AB InBev and Sasol holdings, and trimmed its exposure to MultiChoice and Nedbank.

Commentary contributed by Sean Munsie

Fund manager quarterly commentary as at 30 June 2024



Fund manager: Sean Munsie Inception date: 1 October 2002

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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.

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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.

#### 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 <u>frequently asked questions</u>, 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, FTSE/JSE All Bond Index and FTSE/JSE Financials Index

The FTSE/JSE All Share Index, FTSE/JSE Capped Shareholder Weighted All Share Index, FTSE/JSE All Bond Index and FTSE/JSE Financials 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, FTSE/JSE All Bond Index and FTSE/JSE Financials 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, FTSE/JSE All Bond Index and FTSE/JSE Financials Index vests in FTSE and the JSE jointly. All their rights are reserved.

# 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



## Fund description and summary of investment policy

The Fund invests in South African interest bearing securities. Securities include national government, parastatal, municipal, corporate bonds and money market instruments. The Fund price is sensitive to interest rate movements because of the long-term nature of the Fund's investments. The duration of the Fund may differ materially from the benchmark. The Fund is managed to comply with investment limits governing retirement funds.

ASISA unit trust category: South African - Interest Bearing - Variable Term

## Fund objective and benchmark

The Bond Fund's goal is to deliver returns that exceed inflation and cash over the long term, without taking on undue risk. The Fund's benchmark is the FTSE/JSE All Bond Index.

## How we aim to achieve the Fund's objective

We try to balance credit risk, duration risk and liquidity risk when selecting investments. We target total returns for investors rather than trying to mirror the returns of the FTSE/JSE All Bond Index. When we cannot find value in the bond markets, our portfolio will be weighted towards cash to achieve better returns.

#### Suitable for those investors who

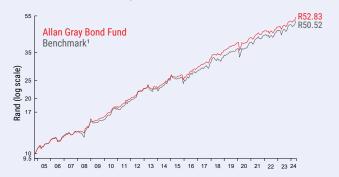
- Seek a bond 'building block' for a diversified multi-asset class portfolio
- Are looking for returns in excess of those provided by money market or cash investments
- Are prepared to accept more risk of capital depreciation than in a money market or cash investment

### Fund information on 30 June 2024

Fund size	R8.1bn
Number of units	622 364 836
Price (net asset value per unit)	R10.48
Modified duration	4.1
Gross yield (before fees)	11.3
Class	А

## Performance net of all fees and expenses

Value of R10 invested at inception with all distributions reinvested



- 1. FTSE/JSE All Bond Index (source: IRESS), performance as calculated by Allan Gray as at 30 June 2024.
- 2. This is based on the latest available numbers published by IRESS as at 31 May 2024.
- Maximum percentage decline over any period. The maximum drawdown occurred from 27 February 2020 to 24 March 2020 and maximum benchmark drawdown occurred from 26 February 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.
- 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 January 2015 and the benchmark's occurred during the 12 months ended 31 January 2015. The Fund's lowest annual return occurred during the 12 months ended 31 January 2016 and the benchmark's occurred during the 12 months ended 31 January 2016. All rolling 12-month figures for the Fund and the benchmark are available from our Client Service Centre on request.

Fund	Benchmark <sup>1</sup>	CPI inflation
428.3	405.2	189.7
8.8	8.5	5.6
8.4	8.2	5.0
7.5	7.8	5.0
7.5	7.6	6.0
10.6	10.9	5.7
12.4	13.7	5.2
5.6	5.6	2.3
-18.9	-19.3	n/a
71.3	68.4	n/a
5.9	7.5	n/a
18.0	21.2	n/a
-2.6	-5.6	n/a
	428.3 8.8 8.4 7.5 7.5 10.6 12.4 5.6 -18.9 71.3 5.9 18.0	428.3 405.2  8.8 8.5  8.4 8.2  7.5 7.8  7.5 7.6  10.6 10.9  12.4 13.7  5.6 5.6  -18.9 -19.3  71.3 68.4  5.9 7.5  18.0 21.2



## Meeting the Fund objective

Since inception and over the latest 10-year period, the Fund has outperformed its benchmark. Over the latest five-year period, the Fund has underperformed its benchmark. The Fund has provided returns in excess of CPI inflation for all three periods. The Fund aims to take no greater risk than its benchmark. 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

Actual payout, the Fund distributes quarterly	30 Sep 2023	31 Dec 2023	31 Mar 2024	30 Jun 2024
Cents per unit	25.7014	26.6398	25.8263	27.2485

## Annual management fee

A fixed fee of 0.5% p.a. excl. VAT

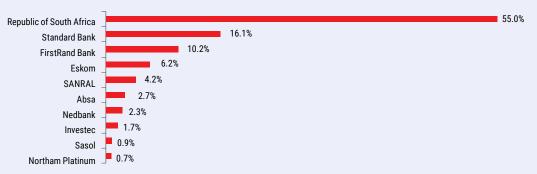
## Total expense ratio (TER) and transaction costs (updated quarterly)

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.

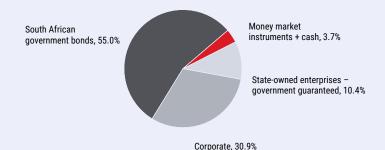
TER and transaction costs breakdown for the 1- and 3-year period ending 30 June 2024	1yr %	3уг %
Total expense ratio	0.59	0.55
Fee for benchmark performance*	0.50	0.47
Performance fees*	0.00	0.00
Other costs excluding transaction costs	0.01	0.01
VAT	0.08	0.07
Transaction costs (including VAT)	0.00	0.00
Total investment charge	0.59	0.55

<sup>\*</sup>On 1 December 2021, the Fund's annual management fee changed from the previous performance-based fee to the current fixed fee of 0.5% p.a. excl. VAT.

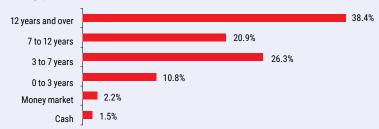
## Top 10 credit exposures on 30 June 2024



#### Asset allocation on 30 June 2024



## Maturity profile on 30 June 2024



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



The year of the great election has commenced, and a swing to the right is sweeping through the polls and flooding into ballot boxes. This is evident in the US, with strong polling figures for Donald Trump and the Republican Party; in the United Kingdom, where Nigel Farage's far-right Reform UK party has eroded some of the support base of the more temperate conservatives; in Germany, where the Social Democrats and Green Party have lost voter share while the prospects for the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party have lifted with the conservative tide; and in France, where Marine Le Pen's right-wing Rassemblement National party significantly increased their seats in parliament.

These elections have arrived just two years after the highest levels of developed market inflation seen in 40 years. History doesn't repeat itself, but it often rhymes. In the Winter of Discontent following the high inflation of the 1970s, Margaret Thatcher led the Conservative Party to reach three landslide victories in the decade thereafter. The current "winter of disconnect" is not only fuelled by a reduction in purchasing power and social inequality but is also deeply rooted in the anti-illegal immigration movement.

In South Africa, the election results confirmed the polls that came before them – a large loss of voter share from the African National Conference (ANC) to Jacob Zuma's uMkhonto weSizwe Party (MK Party) in KwaZulu-Natal. In the days that followed, the market roiled as coalition outcomes were debated, but the MK Party's disorganisation, infighting, constantly changing member list and radical manifesto have made it too unruly to enter coalition discussions. Similarly, there were already mutterings pre-election from within the ANC that earlier provincial coalition partnerships with the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) had been damaging to the party. Thus, a government of national unity (GNU) has been formed – sans the EFF and MK Party.

Local equities and bonds have posted 12% and 11% annualised year-to-date returns, respectively. The SA 20-year bond yield has declined from a year-to-date high of 13.2% to as low as 11.9%, reducing the cost of funding for government. This reflects market exuberance with the results of the SA elections and the formation of a GNU that includes the Democratic Alliance (DA). A more confident SA market and a stronger rand can bleed into lower imported cost inflation and therefore have the potential to ease inflationary pressures from fuel and certain food items. As such, the SA market now prices for two to three interest rate cuts over the next two years.

In December 2017, market exuberance following Cyril Ramaphosa's election as president of the ANC saw a similar move in bonds. Ramaphoria, as the period came to be known, saw the 20-year bond spread versus US Treasuries

decline from 725 basis points (bps) to 560bps, or roughly a 13% capital return over just three months. Currently, the 20-year spread is at 753bps versus US Treasuries, reflecting that SA bonds are in fact cheaper now than they were pre-Ramaphoria on a relative valuation basis given our larger debt load and more severe interest service burden. Does this mean that this rally has longer to run if foreigners sustainably return to SA bond markets?

Casting one's eye one year forward from Ramaphoria to December 2018, yields were again wider, and the capital gain versus pre-Ramaphoria had collapsed to just 3% with the rand weaker alongside it. One lesson to be learned from this experience is that given the interwoven nature of the global economy and consumed goods, the path of interest rates can struggle to sustainably decline if global inflation misbehaves. In 2018, US inflation deviated from the Federal Reserve's 2% target and rose close to 3%. The inflation figure is similar today. In May 2024, US inflation printed at 3.3%, and the seven exuberant interest rate cuts priced into markets back in January 2024 have yet to materialise. The US labour market continues to be robust and consumers have been spending record amounts on items like travel.

A more imperative takeaway from the Ramaphoria period is that political goodwill alone cannot change the path of our country. For this time to be different, we need highly capable leaders to execute their mandates effectively after many years of decline in key government departments. Only the right mix of ingenuity and skill can improve South Africa's growth prospects and ultimately reduce unemployment. Some political parties have, for example, put forward ideas for revamping Home Affairs and resolving the ongoing tourist visa issues which frustrate this sector of the economy. Strong leaders in the right roles in key departments could have a tangible impact, as we saw when Edward Kieswetter turned the South African Revenue Service (SARS) around after state capture had eroded its operational ability and institutional integrity. Only time will tell if we will see a similar rebuild take place at a grander scale as the GNU and newly minted ministers find their feet.

In the last quarter, the Fund's weighted average yield to maturity (gross of fees) has widened versus the FTSE/JSE All Bond Index – measuring 11.3% versus 10.7% at quarter end. This is owing to the 28% of the Fund in floating-rate paper whose yields did not rerate lower in the fixed-rate bond rally nor experience capital return, given that they pay a steady stream of income over time.

Commentary contributed by Thalia Petousis

Fund manager quarterly commentary as at 30 June 2024



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#### Yield

The Allan Gray Bond Fund's gross yield is the estimated weighted average yield-to-maturity of all underlying interest-bearing instruments as at the last day of the month. Actual returns may differ, based on changes in market values, interest rates and market factors during the investment period.

#### Fees

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## Compliance with Regulation 28

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

#### FTSE/JSE All Bond Index

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