Fund managers: Duncan Artus, Rory Kutisker-Jacobson, Tim Acker
(Most foreign assets are invested in Orbis funds) **Inception date:** 1 February 2016
Only available through tax-free investment accounts.

Allan Gray Tax-Free Balanced Fund

31 January 2025

Fund description and summary of investment policy

The Fund is managed in broadly the same way as the Allan Gray Balanced Fund. It was created specifically for use in tax-free accounts and can only be accessed through these products. 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 tax-free investment account
- Typically have an investment horizon of at least three years

Maximum investment amounts

Maximum lump sum per investor account	R36 000
Lifetime maximum	R500 000
Maximum debit order*	R3 000

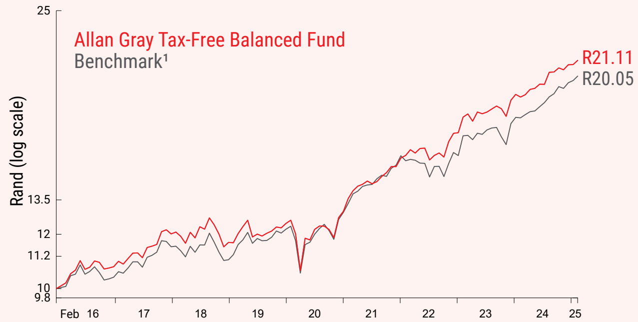
*Only available to investors with a South African bank account.

Fund information on 31 January 2025

Fund size	R3.5bn
Number of units	178 042 685
Price (net asset value per unit)	R17.05
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 February 2016)	111.1	100.5	52.8
Annualised:			
Since inception (1 February 2016)	8.7	8.0	4.9
Latest 5 years	11.0	10.3	4.9
Latest 3 years	10.9	9.7	5.1
Latest 2 years	9.8	10.3	4.1
Latest 1 year	12.8	14.7	3.0
Year-to-date (not annualised)	1.4	1.5	0.1
Risk measures (since inception)			
Maximum drawdown[3]	-24.6	-23.3	n/a
Percentage positive months[4]	67.6	66.7	n/a
Annualised monthly volatility[5]	9.1	9.0	n/a
Highest annual return[6]	31.7	30.7	n/a
Lowest annual return[6]	-13.4	-10.3	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 31 January 2025.
2. This is based on the latest available numbers published by IRESS as at 31 December 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 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 and the benchmark's 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.

Tel 0860 000 654 or +27 (0)21 415 2301 **Email** info@allangray.co.za **www.allangray.co.za**

Fund history

This Fund is managed in broadly the same way as the Allan Gray Balanced Fund. It was created specifically for use in tax-free accounts. Refer to the Allan Gray Balanced Fund factsheet for a history of the Allan Gray Balanced Fund since its inception on 1 October 1999.

Meeting the Fund objective

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 experiences periods of underperformance in pursuit of this objective. Since inception and over the latest five-year period, the Fund has outperformed 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.	30 Jun 2024	31 Dec 2024
Cents per unit	**24.3788**	**17.6520**

Annual management fee

A fixed fee of 1.25% p.a. excl. VAT.

Allan Gray charges this fee based on the net asset value of the Fund excluding the portion invested in Orbis funds. Orbis charges fixed fees within the Orbis funds that the Fund invests in. 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 2024 (SA and Foreign) (updated quarterly)[7]

Company	% of portfolio
Naspers & Prosus	3.8
British American Tobacco	3.8
AB InBev	3.5
Nedbank	2.1
Woolworths	2.0
Standard Bank	1.9
The Walt Disney Company	1.9
Glencore	1.7
Remgro	1.5
Mondi	1.4
Total (%)	**23.8**

Asset allocation on 31 January 2025[7]

Asset class	Total	South Africa	Foreign
Net equities	62.5	36.7	25.8
Hedged equities	8.9	2.8	6.1
Property	0.9	0.2	0.7
Commodity-linked	3.1	2.4	0.7
Bonds	16.6	11.6	4.9
Money market and cash[8]	8.0	9.5	-1.5
Total (%)	**100.0**	**63.2**	**36.8**[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.

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

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

TER and transaction costs breakdown for the 1- and 3-year period ending 31 December 2024	1yr %	3yr %
Total expense ratio	**1.50**	**1.49**
Fee for benchmark performance	1.32	1.31
Performance fees	0.00	0.00
Other costs excluding transaction costs	0.04	0.04
VAT	0.14	0.14
Transaction costs (including VAT)	**0.06**	**0.07**
Total investment charge	**1.56**	**1.56**

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

Minimum	57.5% (February 2016)
Average	64.4%
Maximum	72.5% (May 2021)

Fund manager quarterly commentary as at 31 December 2024

The Fund had a decent 2024 in absolute terms, but a poor one relative to peers. The Fund returned 10.3% in rands, well ahead of inflation of 2.9%, but behind the peer group average of 12.8%[1].

Overall, South Africa was a good place to invest in 2024. The FTSE/JSE All Share Index (ALSI) generated a return of 13.4%, while the FTSE/JSE All Bond Index returned 17.2%.

Those figures look less impressive on a global basis, with the MSCI World Index generating a return of 18.7% in US dollars and 20.6% in rands. Once again, the strong performance of global markets was overwhelmingly driven by US stocks, with the S&P 500 up 24.5% in US dollars and 28.5% in rands[2].

This relative "underperformance" of the JSE masks how incredibly strong some individual names on the local bourse have been, in particular domestically focused stocks:

- The clothing retailers have seen substantial gains. Including dividends, Truworths returned 48%, Pepkor 51%, The Foschini Group 57%, and Mr Price an eye-popping 95%.
- The banks all saw double-digit returns, with the star performers being Nedbank (up 41%) and Capitec (up 58%).
- Other financial services also saw strong gains, with Momentum up 45%, Discovery up 38% and OUTsurance up 64%.
- Food producers AVI and Tiger Brands saw gains of 46% and 51%, respectively, while recently listed Premier Group was up over 100%.
- Even the beleaguered food retailers had a good year, with Spar up 24% and Pick n Pay up 55%. The latter was buoyed by the listing of subsidiary Boxer Retail in the final quarter.

It is the relative underperformance of many of the multinationals listed on the JSE, and the major mining companies, that has dragged down the market's overall performance.

With the benefit of hindsight, one might now say that it is clear that coming into 2024, with loadshedding still present and election uncertainty looming, sentiment on SA-focused stocks was overly negative, and any positive surprise would see a resurgence in sentiment and share prices.

With the formation of the government of national unity (GNU) and loadshedding now seemingly in the rearview mirror, that is what has transpired, but was it obvious at the start of 2024?

In our March 2024 commentary, we highlighted that 2024 had above-average political risk: In addition to the South African national elections, a record percentage of the world's population headed to the polls. We cautioned that given the heightened uncertainty, we had not bet the portfolio on one or two scenarios prevailing. Rather, we had deliberately constructed a diversified portfolio for a wide range of outcomes.

Indeed, we have seen many changes in governments across the world and many surprises. Not least in South Africa, where the market has reacted extremely positively towards the election outcome and the formation of the GNU.

In this environment, we have underperformed. We have owned, and continue to own, a number of the companies noted above. However, in many instances, we have either not owned these shares, not owned them in enough quantity or, arguably, sold too soon. We have also been overweight a number of the underperforming multinationals.

It is not unusual for us to underperform a rising market. As valuation-driven investors, we anchor to our estimate of fair value, preferring to own undervalued and out-of-favour stocks, selling appreciating stocks as soon as they exceed our estimate of fair value. This often means we will sell a share well before it peaks.

Market sentiment is like a pendulum – it tends to swing from bouts of excessive pessimism to excessive optimism, with the long-term real value somewhere in the middle. At the start of 2024, for many domestic businesses, it did appear that the market was being overly pessimistic, and so we owned a number of these shares. However, as we end 2024 and begin 2025, it seems to us that sentiment is beginning to price excessive optimism into the forward-looking expectations for many domestic counters, and so we continue to reduce our exposure.

South Africa continues to be plagued by many structural challenges, not least of which is widespread municipal failure, chronic underinvestment in infrastructure and pervasive unemployment. The GNU has yet to be properly tested with the difficult decisions and inevitable trade-offs that lie ahead. Our public debt continues to grow, currently debt-to-GDP sits at approximately 75%, and we continue to run a deficit, with debt service costs alone forecast to exceed 20% of government revenue in 2025. In a country with a population north of 62 million, less than 1.9 million people contribute more than 75% of personal income tax.

We are not overly negative about the long-term prospects for South Africa, but we are highlighting that domestic investments are not without risks. For many local investments, we now question whether these risks are being adequately discounted in the prices one pays.

During the quarter, we sold down Absa and The Foschini Group and added to our positions in AB InBev and BHP. Offshore, our sister company, Orbis, continues to find greater value outside of the US than within it. We continue to have more than 35% of the Fund directly offshore and, on a look-through basis, more than 50% of the portfolio's exposure remains outside South Africa.

Commentary contributed by Rory Kutisker-Jacobson

1. The market value-weighted average return of funds in the South African – Multi Asset – High Equity category (excluding Allan Gray funds)
2. Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices

Information and content

The information in and content of this publication are provided by Allan Gray as general information about the company and its products and services. Allan Gray does not guarantee the suitability or potential value of any information or particular investment source. The information provided is not intended to, nor does it constitute financial, tax, legal, investment or other advice. Before making any decision or taking any action regarding your finances, you should consult a qualified financial adviser. Nothing contained in this publication constitutes a solicitation, recommendation, endorsement or offer by Allan Gray; it is merely an invitation to do business. Allan Gray has taken and will continue to take care that all information provided, in so far as this is under its control, is true and correct. However, Allan Gray shall not be responsible for and therefore disclaims any liability for any loss, liability, damage (whether direct or consequential) or expense of any nature whatsoever which may be suffered as a result of or which may be attributable, directly or indirectly, to the use of or reliance on any information provided. 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.

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).

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).

Information for investors in the tax-free investment account

The Allan Gray Tax-Free Investment Account is administered by Allan Gray Investment Services (Pty) Ltd, an authorised administrative financial services provider, and underwritten by Allan Gray Life Ltd, an insurer licensed to conduct investment-linked life insurance business as defined in the Insurance Act 18 of 2017. The underlying investment options of the Allan Gray individual products are portfolios of collective investment schemes in securities (unit trusts or funds).

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

Fund description and summary of investment policy

The Fund invests in a mix of South African interest-bearing securities. These securities can be issued by government, parastatals, corporates and banks. The Fund's weighted average modified duration is limited to a maximum of two. Returns are likely to be less volatile than those of traditional income and bond funds, but more volatile than those of money market funds. The Fund is managed to comply with the investment limits governing retirement funds.

ASISA unit trust category: South African – Interest Bearing – Short Term

Fund objective and benchmark

The Fund aims to generate returns higher than bank deposits and traditional money market funds, while maintaining capital stability and low volatility. 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 select South African interest-bearing securities 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 securities for the Fund. These will primarily be floating-rate notes, money market instruments and fixed interest paper with a low duration. We take a conservative approach to credit risk, liquidity risk and duration risk.

Suitable for those investors who

- Are risk-averse but seek returns higher than bank deposits and traditional money market funds
- Need a short-term investment account
- Seek a domestic-only interest-bearing 'building block'
- Require monthly income distributions

Fund information on 31 January 2025

Fund size	R1.4bn
Number of units	39 216 569
Price (net asset value per unit)	R10.20
Modified duration	0.6
Gross yield (i.e. before fees)	9.0
Net yield (i.e. after fees)	8.2
Fund weighted average maturity (years)	6.2
Class	A

1. The Fund's benchmark is the Alexander Forbes Short Term Fixed Interest (STeFI) Composite Index. Performance as calculated by Allan Gray as at 31 January 2025. Source: Bloomberg.
2. This is based on the latest available numbers published by IRESS as at 31 December 2024.
3. Maximum percentage decline over any period. The maximum drawdown occurred from 7 October 2024 to 8 October 2024. 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.

Income distributions

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

May 2024	Jun 2024	Jul 2024	Aug 2024
6.59	6.57	8.11	7.40
Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024
7.76	7.58	7.09	7.68
Jan 2025			
7.32			

Performance net of all fees and expenses

% Returns	Fund	Benchmark[1]	CPI inflation[2]
Cumulative:			
Since inception (1 May 2024)	8.1	6.2	0.9
Annualised:			
Year-to-date (not annualised)	0.7	0.7	0.1
Risk measures (since inception)			
Maximum drawdown[3]	-1.2	n/a	n/a
Percentage positive months[4]	100.0	100.0	n/a

Annual management fee

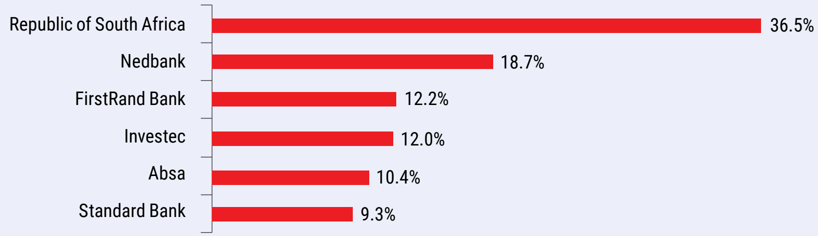
A fixed fee of 0.65% p.a. excl. VAT

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

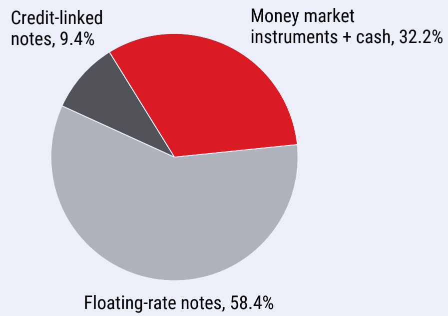
The annual management fee is included in the TER. The TER is a measure of the actual expenses incurred by the Fund over a one- and three-year period (annualised). Transaction costs are disclosed separately. Complete and accurate data is only available after 12 months. The TER and transaction costs are therefore based on actual data, where available, and best estimates.

TER and transaction costs breakdown for the 1- and 3-year period ending 31 December 2024	1yr %	3yr %
Total expense ratio	**0.76**	**0.76**
Fee for benchmark performance	0.65	0.65
Performance fees	0.00	0.00
Other costs excluding transaction costs	0.01	0.01
VAT	0.10	0.10
Transaction costs (including VAT)	**0.00**	**0.00**
Total investment charge	**0.76**	**0.76**

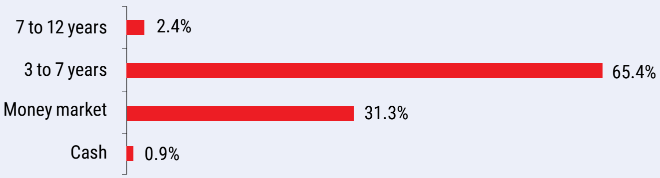
Top credit exposures on 31 January 2025



Asset allocation on 31 January 2025



Maturity profile on 31 January 2025



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

Fund manager commentary as at 31 December 2024

The US Federal Reserve's (Fed) December 2024 meeting delivered a 25 basis point cut to the benchmark rate that was expected, but it was Fed Chair Jerome Powell's comment at the post-meeting press conference that their year-end inflation projection has "kind of fallen apart" that spooked the market. This was the Fed's third consecutive rate cut in a cycle that began with the larger-than-anticipated 50 basis points in September. At that time, he spoke to concerns of building weakness in the labour market but subsequent data points, both in employment numbers and the strength of the US economy, have mostly allayed those fears. Rather, it is inflation, the other side of the Fed's dual mandate, that remains stubbornly above its 2% target. Their favoured inflation measure, the core personal consumption expenditures which strips out the more volatile food and energy prices, rose at 2.8% annually in November.

US policymakers have now raised their inflation projections and forecast only 50 basis points worth of interest rate cuts in 2025, below the market's expectation. In addressing the cooling on further rate cuts, Powell alluded to the potential inflationary impact of President Trump's economic policies. Market participants fear that his proposals to hike tariffs, deport immigrants and slash taxes could trigger a fresh bout of inflation.

An argument exists that lingering inflationary pressures in the global economy predate the election of Trump. We have written previously about the structural forces driving inflation and, therefore, interest rates higher. These forces are termed the five Ds: Demographics, Decarbonisation, Deglobalisation, Debt and Defence. Declining workforces and accompanying wage pressures, fragmentation of supply chains and the partial reversal of globalisation gains, the push to transition to clean energy, and higher government debt burdens create an inflation bias that aligns with some of Trump's policies but are much longer-term in nature. As such, it limits the scope to cut rates further by a substantial amount. US long bond yields have acted as the canary in the coalmine – forewarning the market that inflation was still a risk long before the Fed adjusted their guidance. As such, for one of the first times in US history, US long bond yields in fact *rose* following the beginning of the rate-cutting cycle.

Closer to home, the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) enacted only two interest rate cuts in 2024 – taking the overnight repo rate from 8.25% to 7.75%. What is unusual about current SA inflation is how close it is to that seen in developed markets, running at only 0.15% higher than the US inflation rate. If one looks at inflation data over the 20 years to 2020, SA inflation ran at 3.47% higher than US inflation on average. Much of the current malaise in SA inflation can be attributed to weak local consumer health and low demand, in addition to a well-behaved rand exchange rate in 2024. Another interesting data component is that the price of vehicles is also coming down locally as cheaper Chinese cars begin to flood the market. That said, the SARB remains cautious as ever on inflation, citing higher local water and electricity tariffs anticipated for 2025. The market forecasts that SA overnight rates may be cut by just 0.25% to 0.50% over the course of 2025, with the final repo rate between 7.25% and 7.50%. This is still well above its pre-COVID level and, if it is an accurate prediction, provides a healthy return in excess of inflation.

The Fund increased exposure to money market instruments as hawkish comments from both the SARB and the Fed caused long-dated money market yields to rerate higher on expectations of a shallow rate-cutting cycle, thus making the cash versus term paper relative look more attractive. In the last quarter, the Fund's weighted average yield (gross of fees) dropped by 30 basis points to 9.2% as interest rate cuts occurred.

Commentary contributed by Sean Munsie and Thalia Petousis

Important information for investors

Information and content

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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. 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.

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.

Yield

The 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. The one-year TER is deducted from the gross yield to derive a yield net of fund expenses. Actual returns may differ based on changes in market values, interest rates and market factors during the investment period.

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

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FTSE/JSE All Share Index, FTSE/JSE All Bond Index

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Allan Gray Bond Fund

31 January 2025

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

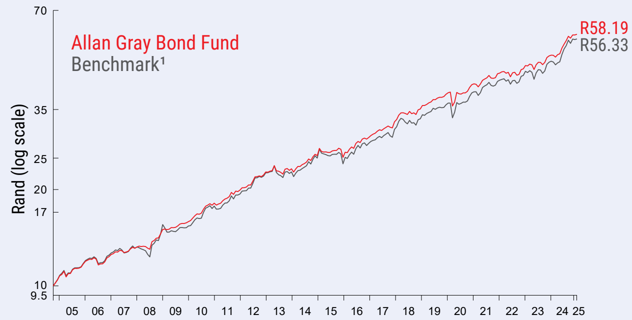
- Seek a bond 'building block' for a diversified multi-asset class portfolio
- Are looking for returns in excess of those provided by money market or cash investments
- Are prepared to accept more risk of capital depreciation than in a money market or cash investment

Fund information on 31 January 2025

Fund size	R9.3bn
Number of units	640 225 316
Price (net asset value per unit)	R10.71
Modified duration	4.2
Gross yield (before fees)	10.2
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 2004)	481.9	463.3	191.7
Annualised:			
Since inception (1 October 2004)	9.0	8.9	5.4
Latest 10 years	8.3	8.0	4.9
Latest 5 years	8.5	9.4	4.9
Latest 3 years	9.5	10.1	5.1
Latest 2 years	11.6	12.0	4.1
Latest 1 year	15.7	16.9	3.0
Year-to-date (not annualised)	0.5	0.4	0.1
Risk measures (since inception)			
Maximum drawdown[3]	-18.9	-19.3	n/a
Percentage positive months[4]	71.7	68.4	n/a
Annualised monthly volatility[5]	5.9	7.5	n/a
Highest annual return[6]	22.0	26.1	n/a
Lowest annual return[6]	-2.6	-5.6	n/a

1. FTSE/JSE All Bond Index (source: IRESS), performance as calculated by Allan Gray as at 31 January 2025.
2. This is based on the latest available numbers published by IRESS as at 31 December 2024.
3. 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.
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 2024 and the benchmark's occurred during the 12 months ended 30 September 2024. 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.

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	31 Mar 2024	30 Jun 2024	30 Sep 2024	31 Dec 2024
Cents per unit	**25.8263**	**27.2485**	**26.5758**	**26.1592**

Annual management fee

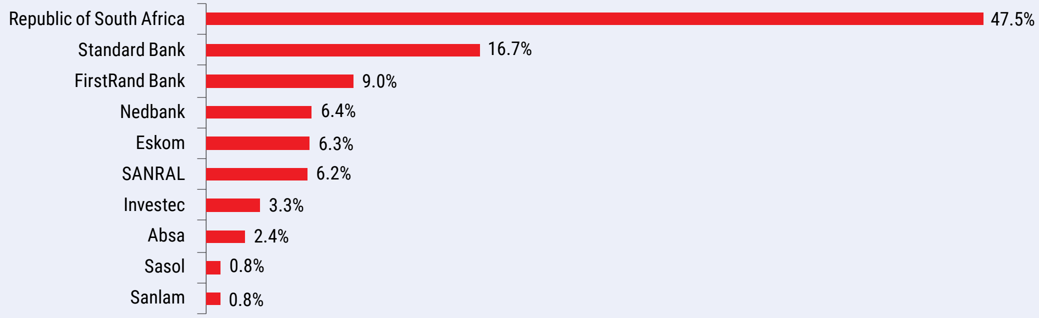
A fixed fee of 0.5% p.a. excl. VAT

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

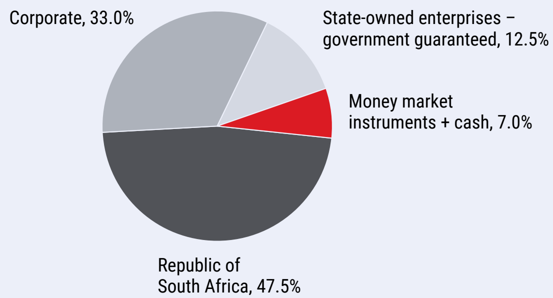
The annual management fee is included in the TER. The TER is a measure of the actual expenses incurred by the Fund over a one and three-year period (annualised). Since Fund returns are quoted after deduction of these expenses, the TER should not be deducted from the published returns (refer to page 4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

TER and transaction costs breakdown for the 1- and 3-year period ending 31 December 2024	1yr %	3yr %
Total expense ratio	**0.59**	**0.59**
Fee for benchmark performance*	0.50	0.50
Performance fees*	0.00	0.00
Other costs excluding transaction costs	0.01	0.01
VAT	0.08	0.08
Transaction costs (including VAT)	**0.00**	**0.00**
Total investment charge	**0.59**	**0.59**

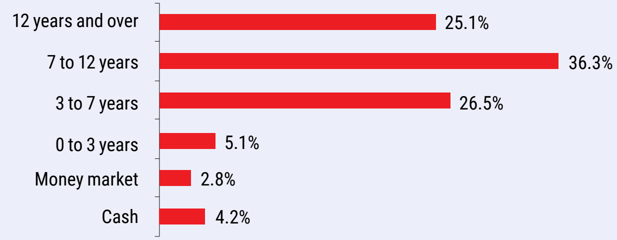
Top 10 credit exposures on 31 January 2025



Asset allocation on 31 January 2025



Maturity profile on 31 January 2025



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

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Fund manager quarterly commentary as at 31 December 2024

To put it simply, South African government bonds had an extremely strong year in 2024. In 2024, the FTSE/JSE All Bond Index (ALBI) returned 17.2% in rand terms, outperforming the FTSE/JSE All Share Index, which returned 13.4%. The ALBI's outperformance is more extreme when comparing the SA bond market to its peer bond markets. In US dollar terms[1], the ALBI returned 13.2% versus the J.P Morgan GBI-EM Global Core Index at -2.4% for the year.

An extreme underperformer in the emerging market bond arena has been Brazil. Its 2033 local currency bonds lost 16.2% of their value this year, or an even more abysmal 37.6% when measured in US dollar returns. The Brazilian real hit a record low this year as leftist President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (Lula) ramped up government spending on welfare while also caving to populist measures like tax breaks for low-income earners. Brazil's budget deficit has doubled since Lula took office and is now close to 10% of GDP in a single year, threatening the sustainability of government debt. By contrast, recent changes to the SA government were seen as overwhelmingly positive – pivoting the country away from populism and towards pro-growth policies, market-friendly private sector inclusion and structural reform.

The SA 10-year bond now trades at a yield of 10.3% versus the Brazilian 10-year bond at a 15.4% yield and the US 10-year bond at a 4.6% yield. The SA yield spread differential versus the US at 5.7% is the tightest spread on record in the last six years, which should ideally reflect an enhancement in our creditworthiness versus the US. This is somewhat difficult to square from a fundamental perspective when one considers that the SA sovereign has outpaced the US government in terms of debt accumulation as a percentage of GDP over that period – in part due to substantially weaker economic growth. Even if one accepts this phenomenon of a tighter spread, another conundrum is that we are witnessing one of the first times in US history when US long bond yields have in fact *risen* following the beginning of a rate-cutting cycle. Some of this is undoubtedly due to the differing trajectories of tight monetary policy versus loose fiscal policy. In addition, what has rattled offshore bond markets are comments like those made most recently by US Federal Reserve (Fed) Chair Jerome Powell at the final Fed meeting of 2024, where he stated that their year-end inflation projection has "kind of fallen apart". At the December meeting, Powell acknowledged that inflation has not abated by as much as the Fed had expected and that "people are still feeling high prices", which limits the scope to cut rates further by a substantial amount.

When thinking about South Africa's future trajectory for debt accumulation, what has become clear in the final months of 2024 is that the financial year 2025 borrowing requirement was initially underestimated by Treasury. As such, it was revised higher at the September Medium Term Budget Policy Statement to accommodate for further fiscal slippage. Rand SA government bonds, however, have become sacrosanct in the Budget, and Treasury has shown a strong commitment to not raising the issuance of rand bonds further, given that they do not want to put pressure on their borrowing costs. Instead, Treasury opted to raise US$3.5bn worth of US dollar-denominated Eurobonds in international markets in November 2024. They are also contemplating creative ways to raise more rand debt outside of the formal SA government bond market. The use of proceeds for this debt would be the infrastructure projects which have historically been repeatedly cut back from the Budget during rounds of fiscal consolidation. In short, these projects are often crowded out by a larger government wage bill and social grant expenditure. Such efforts to raise rand debt outside of the formal SA government bond market architecture could act to curtail a large rise in supply of paper and could provide a shield for bond investors in particular. One must keep in mind, however, that the ultimate funder being tapped for a larger rand debt requirement remains the SA savings pool, regardless of the format of the debt and, as such, it is questionable how large the untapped pools of local capital are.

In the last quarter, the Fund cut some long bond duration when SA yields were at their lows and reduced short-dated inflation exposure in exchange for some of the "new" short fixed-rate bonds issued at attractive levels in primary auction. The Fund offers a gross yield of 10.4% against a modified duration of 4.1, versus the ALBI at 10.1% and 5.7. While it was the wrong call to enter the election period with a low modified duration position, valuations now look somewhat stretched on a fundamental basis, warranting caution in positioning.

Commentary contributed by Thalia Petousis

1. Source: Bloomberg

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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.

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Total expense ratio (TER) and transaction costs

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Allan Gray Income Fund

31 January 2025

Fund managers: Sean Munsie, Thalia Petousis **Inception date:** 1 May 2024

Fund description and summary of investment policy

The Fund invests primarily in a mix of South African interest-bearing securities, with limited exposure to offshore interest-bearing securities. Returns are likely to be less volatile than those of a bond-only fund. The Fund is managed to comply with the investment limits governing retirement funds.

ASISA unit trust category: South African – Multi Asset – Income

Fund objective and benchmark

The Fund aims to generate income and produce returns that are superior to traditional money market funds, while preserving capital and minimising the risk of loss over any one- to two-year period. 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 a broad range of South African interest-bearing securities, such as floating-rate notes, inflation-linked bonds, fixed-rate instruments and money market securities, with limited exposure to offshore interest-bearing securities. It provides investors with income 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 securities for the Fund. While the Fund can have limited exposure to equities and property, we expect this to occur infrequently and to typically coincide with unusual or extreme points in the valuation cycle. We take a conservative approach to managing the Fund, balancing credit risk, duration risk and liquidity risk when selecting securities.

Suitable for those investors who

- Are risk-averse and require capital preservation over any one- to two-year period
- Seek returns higher than traditional money market funds
- Seek a unit trust that provides an income
- Seek a prudently managed income 'building block'
- Wish to invest in a unit trust that complies with retirement fund investment limits

Income distributions for the last 12 months

Actual payout, the Fund distributes quarterly	30 Jun 2024	30 Sep 2024	31 Dec 2024
Cents per unit	**13.7849**	**24.6096**	**23.6333**

Fund information on 31 January 2025

Fund size	R1.1bn
Number of units	26 583 685
Price (net asset value per unit)	R10.35
Modified duration	0.9
Gross yield (i.e. before fees)	9.5
Net yield (i.e. after fees)	8.6
Fund weighted average maturity (years)	5.4
Class	A

1. The Fund's benchmark is the Alexander Forbes Short Term Fixed Interest (STeFI) Composite Index. Performance as calculated by Allan Gray as at 31 January 2025. Source: Bloomberg.
2. This is based on the latest available numbers published by IRESS as at 31 December 2024.
3. Maximum percentage decline over any period. The maximum drawdown occurred from 1 October 2024 to 8 October 2024. 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.

Performance net of all fees and expenses

The Fund was launched on 1 May 2024. The performance graph will be included once the Fund has been in existence for one year.

% Returns	Fund	Benchmark[1]	CPI inflation[2]
Cumulative:			
Since inception (1 May 2024)	9.9	6.2	0.9
Annualised:			
Year-to-date (not annualised)	0.8	0.7	0.1
Risk measures (since inception)			
Maximum drawdown[3]	-0.9	n/a	n/a
Percentage positive months[4]	100.0	100.0	n/a

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Annual management fee

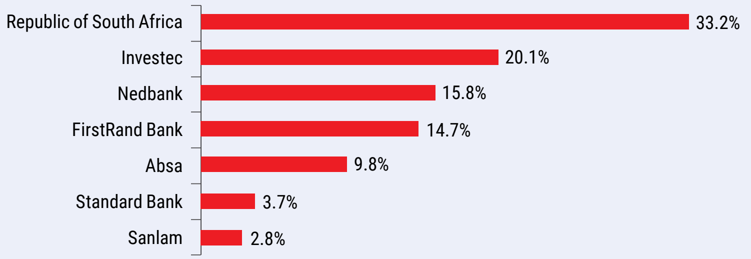
A fixed fee of 0.75% p.a. excl. VAT

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

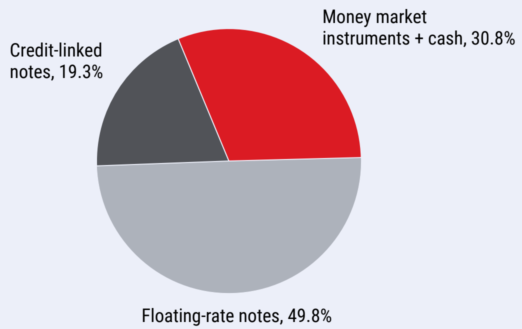
The annual management fee is included in the TER. The TER is a measure of the actual expenses incurred by the Fund over a one- and three-year period (annualised). Transaction costs are disclosed separately. Complete and accurate data is only available after 12 months. The TER and transaction costs are therefore based on actual data, where available, and best estimates.

TER and transaction costs breakdown for the 1- and 3-year period ending 31 December 2024	1yr %	3yr %
Total expense ratio	**0.87**	**0.87**
Fee for benchmark performance	0.75	0.75
Performance fees	0.00	0.00
Other costs excluding transaction costs	0.01	0.01
VAT	0.11	0.11
Transaction costs (including VAT)	**0.00**	**0.00**
Total investment charge	**0.87**	**0.87**

Top credit exposures on 31 January 2025

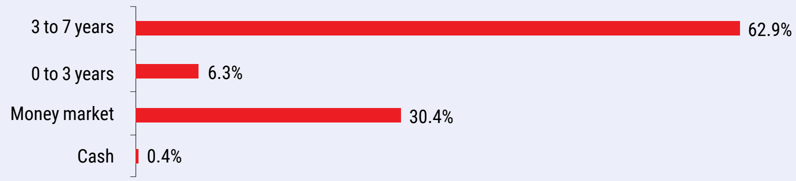


Asset allocation on 31 January 2025[5]



5. Foreign exposure on 31 January 2025: 0.0% is invested in foreign investments.

Maturity profile on 31 January 2025



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

Fund manager commentary as at 31 December 2024

The US Federal Reserve's (Fed) December 2024 meeting delivered a 25 basis point cut to the benchmark rate that was expected, but it was Fed Chair Jerome Powell's comment at the post-meeting press conference that their year-end inflation projection has "kind of fallen apart" that spooked the market. This was the Fed's third consecutive rate cut in a cycle that began with the larger-than-anticipated 50 basis points in September. At that time, he spoke to concerns of building weakness in the labour market but subsequent data points, both in employment numbers and the strength of the US economy, have mostly allayed those fears. Rather, it is inflation, the other side of the Fed's dual mandate, that remains stubbornly above its 2% target. Their favoured inflation measure, the core personal consumption expenditures which strips out the more volatile food and energy prices, rose at 2.8% annually in November.

US policymakers have now raised their inflation projections and forecast only 50 basis points worth of interest rate cuts in 2025, below the market's expectation. In addressing the cooling on further rate cuts, Powell alluded to the potential inflationary impact of President Trump's economic policies. Market participants fear that his proposals to hike tariffs, deport immigrants and slash taxes could trigger a fresh bout of inflation.

An argument exists that lingering inflationary pressures in the global economy predate the election of Trump. We have written previously about the structural forces driving inflation and, therefore, interest rates higher. These forces are termed the five Ds: Demographics, Decarbonisation, Deglobalisation, Debt and Defence. Declining workforces and accompanying wage pressures, fragmentation of supply chains and partial reversal of globalisation gains, the push to transition to clean energy, and higher government debt burdens create an inflation bias that aligns with some of Trump's policies but are much longer-term in nature. As such, it limits the scope to cut rates further by a substantial amount. US long bond yields have acted as the canary in the coalmine – forewarning the market that inflation was still a risk long before the Fed adjusted their guidance.

As such, for one of the first times in US history, US long bond yields in fact *rose* following the beginning of the rate-cutting cycle.

Closer to home, the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) enacted only two interest rate cuts in 2024 – taking the overnight repo rate from 8.25% to 7.75%. What is unusual about current SA inflation is how close it is to that seen in developed markets, running at only 0.15% higher than the US inflation rate. If one looks at inflation data over the 20 years to 2020, SA inflation ran at 3.47% higher than US inflation on average. Much of the current malaise in SA inflation can be attributed to weak local consumer health and low demand, in addition to a well-behaved rand exchange rate in 2024. Another interesting data component is that the price of vehicles is also coming down locally as cheaper Chinese cars begin to flood the market. That said, the SARB remains cautious as ever on inflation, citing higher local water and electricity tariffs anticipated for 2025. The market forecasts that SA overnight rates may be cut by just 0.25% to 0.50% over the course of 2025, with the final repo rate between 7.25% and 7.50%. This is still well above its pre-COVID level and, if it is an accurate prediction, provides a healthy return in excess of inflation.

The Fund maintained its exposure to credit-linked notes at 18.0% of the Fund, which consist of South African rand government bond exposure repackaged into a floating-rate format using interest rate swaps. The Fund also increased exposure to money market instruments as hawkish comments from both the SARB and the Fed caused long-dated money market yields to rerate higher on expectations of a shallow rate-cutting cycle, thus making the cash versus term paper relative look more attractive. In the last quarter, the Fund's weighted average yield (gross of fees) dropped by 30 basis points to 9.6% as interest rate cuts occurred.

Commentary contributed by Sean Munsie and Thalia Petousis

Important information for investors

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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. 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.

Yield

The 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. The one-year TER is deducted from the gross yield to derive a yield net of fund expenses. Actual returns may differ based on changes in market values, interest rates and market factors during the investment period.

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

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FTSE/JSE All Share Index, FTSE/JSE All Bond Index

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Allan Gray Money Market Fund

Fund manager: Thalia Petousis **Inception date:** 1 July 2001

31 January 2025

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 – SA 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) 3-month 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 31 January 2025

Fund size	R28.9bn
Number of units	25 600 983 700
Price (net asset value per unit)	R1.00
Monthly yield at month end	0.68
Fund weighted average coupon (days)	73.89
Fund weighted average maturity (days)	114.82
Class	A

1. The current benchmark is the Alexander Forbes Short Term Fixed Interest (STeFI) 3-month Index. From 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. From 1 November 2011 to 19 August 2024, the benchmark was the Alexander Forbes Short Term Fixed Interest (STeFI) Composite Index. Performance as calculated by Allan Gray as at 31 January 2025. Source: Bloomberg.
2. This is based on the latest available numbers published by IRESS as at 31 December 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.

Income distribution for the last 12 months

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

Feb 2024	Mar 2024	Apr 2024	May 2024
0.69	0.74	0.72	0.74
Jun 2024	Jul 2024	Aug 2024	Sep 2024
0.72	0.74	0.73	0.71
Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025
0.72	0.68	0.68	0.68

Performance net of all fees and expenses

% Returns	Fund	Benchmark[1]	CPI inflation[2]
Cumulative:			
Since inception (1 July 2001)	476.3	449.9	241.5
Annualised:			
Since inception (1 July 2001)	7.7	7.5	5.4
Latest 10 years	7.1	6.7	4.9
Latest 5 years	6.6	6.2	4.9
Latest 3 years	7.8	7.3	5.1
Latest 2 years	8.7	8.2	4.1
Latest 1 year	8.9	8.3	3.0
Year-to-date (not annualised)	0.7	0.6	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

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 2024	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 31 January 2025

	% of portfolio
Governments	**40.6**
Republic of South Africa	40.6
Banks[6]	**53.3**
Standard Bank	16.3
Nedbank	18.0
FirstRand Bank	10.3
Investec	8.2
Absa	0.4
Corporates	**6.1**
Shoprite	2.6
Sanlam	2.6
Daimler Truck	0.9
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 2024

While 2024 began with US markets forecasting 1.75% of rate cuts for the year, in reality only 1.00% worth of rate cuts materialised – taking the US federal funds rate from an upper bound of 5.5% to 4.5% by year end. While this in itself reflects a missed prediction for 2024, what has rattled markets even more are the comments made by US Federal Reserve (Fed) Chair Jerome Powell at the final Fed meeting of 2024, where he stated that their year-end inflation projection has "kind of fallen apart". At the December meeting, Powell acknowledged that inflation has not abated by as much as the Fed had expected, and that "people are still feeling high prices". Indeed, after bumper years for inflation in 2022 and 2023, the US still recorded 3.3% core inflation in November (i.e. excluding food and fuel) off a high base in prices. Another grand market prediction that failed to materialise during the year was the forecast for a US recession. The outcome has been far from it. The US continues to outperform other economies with close to 3.0% real GDP growth and an unemployment rate of just 4.2%.

As we wrote early in 2024, the market must awaken to the reality of a strong US labour market, low US unemployment and sticky inflation in US services. Such stickiness in US prices makes it incredibly difficult to cut interest rates excessively without lighting the flame of another round of inflation. The drivers of US services inflation cover quite a range of items, like costlier prices for elder care and domestic work, hospital and veterinarian services, financial services, and even admission to sporting events. When an economy experiences an energy, food and fuel price shock, as seen in 2022, then it is natural to expect that a second-round shock via services-led inflation could follow. When prices have been high, workers demand higher pay. This is particularly true for an economy like the US with a shortage of low-skilled labour. When in short supply, lower-cost labourers have a lot of bargaining power.

US wage growth is unsurprisingly still running at an elevated 4.8% year-on-year with job openings of 7.7 million people versus only 7.1 million unemployed workers as at end November 2024. The narrative of a coming recession against such an economic backdrop was only ever that – a narrative – and certainly not one that was grounded in the actual economic data being observed.

South Africa, by contrast to the US, only experienced two interest rate cuts this year – taking the overnight repo rate from 8.25% to 7.75%. What is unusual about current SA inflation is how close it is to that seen in developed markets, running at only 0.15% higher than the US inflation rate. If one looks at inflation data over the 20 years to 2020, SA inflation ran at 3.47% higher than US inflation on average. Much of the current malaise in SA inflation can be attributed to weak local consumer health and low demand, in addition to a well-behaved rand exchange rate in 2024. Another interesting data component is that the price of vehicles is also coming down locally as cheaper Chinese cars begin to flood the market. That said, the South African Reserve Bank remains cautious as ever on inflation, citing higher local water and electricity tariffs anticipated for the new year. The market forecasts that the US and SA overnight rates may be cut by just 0.50% each over the course of 2025, with the final rates at 4.00% and 7.25%. These are still well above their pre-COVID levels and, if they are accurate predictions, provide a healthy return in excess of inflation for money market savers.

Over the quarter, the Fund reinvested maturities at slightly lower rates given the rate-cutting cycle and its impact on the pricing of money market instruments. As such, and on a gross-of-fees basis, the Fund's weighted average annual yield and weighted average effective yield ended the year at 8.4% and 8.7% respectively, versus an SA inflation rate for November 2024 of 2.9%.

Commentary contributed by Thalia Petousis

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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.

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