

**Fund managers:** Duncan Artus, Jacques Plaut, Rory Kutisker–Jacobson, Tim Acker (Most foreign assets are invested in Orbis funds) **Inception date:** 1 October 1999

## Fund description and summary of investment policy

The Fund invests in a mix of shares, bonds, property, commodities and cash. The Fund can invest a maximum of 45% offshore. The Fund typically invests the bulk of its foreign allowance in a mix of funds managed by Orbis Investment Management Limited, our offshore investment partner. The maximum net equity exposure of the Fund is 75% and we may use exchange-traded derivative contracts on stock market indices to reduce net equity exposure from time to time. The Fund is managed to comply with the investment limits governing retirement funds. Returns are likely to be less volatile than those of an equity-only fund.

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

## Fund objective and benchmark

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

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

We seek to buy shares at a discount to their intrinsic value. We thoroughly research companies to assess their intrinsic value from a long-term perspective. This long-term perspective enables us to buy shares which are shunned by the stock market because of their unexciting or poor short-term prospects, but which are relatively attractively priced if one looks to the long term. If the stock market offers few attractive shares we may increase the Fund's weighting to alternative assets such as bonds, property, commodities and cash, or we may partially hedge the Fund's stock market exposure. By varying the Fund's exposure to these different asset classes over time, we seek to enhance the Fund's long-term returns and to manage its risk. The Fund's bond and money market investments are actively managed.

#### Suitable for those investors who

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

#### Minimum investment amounts\*

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

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

## Fund information on 31 May 2022

Fund size	R158.7bn
Number of units	556 566 250
Price (net asset value per unit)	R128.80
Class	А

- 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 May 2022. From inception to 31 January 2013 the benchmark was the market value-weighted average return of the funds in both the Domestic Asset Allocation Medium Equity and Domestic Asset Allocation Variable Equity sectors of the previous ASISA Fund Classification Standard, excluding the Allan Gray Balanced Fund. Source: Micropal.
- This is based on the latest available numbers published by IRESS as at 30 April 2022.
- 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).
- 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 April 2006 and the benchmark's occurred during the 12 months ended 30 April 2006. The Fund's lowest annual return occurred during the 12 months ended 31 March 2020 and the benchmark's occurred during the 12 months ended 28 February 2009. All rolling 12-month figures for the Fund and the benchmark are available from our Client Service Centre on request.

## 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 1999)	2392.3	1075.7	236.8
Annualised:			
Since inception (1 October 1999)	15.2	11.5	5.5
Latest 10 years	10.0	8.8	5.0
Latest 5 years	7.1	6.7	4.4
Latest 3 years	10.4	9.1	4.4
Latest 2 years	17.0	13.8	5.2
Latest 1 year	11.8	7.3	5.9
Year-to-date (not annualised)	3.1	-2.5	3.0
Risk measures (since inception)			
Maximum drawdown <sup>3</sup>	-25.4	-23.3	n/a
Percentage positive months <sup>4</sup>	69.9	67.6	n/a
Annualised monthly volatility <sup>5</sup>	9.5	9.3	n/a
Highest annual return <sup>6</sup>	46.1	41.9	n/a
Lowest annual return <sup>6</sup>	-14.2	-16.7	n/a

<sup>\*\*</sup>Only available to investors with a South African bank account.



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## Meeting the Fund objective

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

## Income distributions for the last 12 months

To the extent that income earned in the form of dividends and interest exceeds expenses in the Fund, the Fund will distribute any surplus biannually.	30 Jun 2021	31 Dec 2021
Cents per unit	93.3008	159.5677

## Annual management fee

Allan Gray charges a fee based on the net asset value of the Fund excluding the portion invested in Orbis funds. The fee rate is calculated daily by comparing the Fund's total performance over the last two years, to that of the benchmark.

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

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

Maximum fee: 1.50% p.a. excl. VAT Minimum fee: 0.50% p.a. excl. VAT

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

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

## Total expense ratio (TER) and transaction costs

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

# Top 10 share holdings on 31 March 2022 (SA and Foreign)

(updated quarterly)<sup>7</sup>

Company	% of portfolio	
British American Tobacco	6.0	
Glencore	5.2	
Naspers <sup>8</sup>	4.3	
Nedbank	2.8	
Woolworths	2.6	
Sasol	2.6	
Remgro	2.4	
Sibanye-Stillwater	2.1	
AB Inbev	2.1	
Standard Bank	1.8	
Total (%)	31.7	

## Asset allocation on 31 May 20227

Asset class	Total	South Africa	Africa ex-SA	Foreign ex-Africa
Net equities	70.3	50.5	3.1	16.7
Hedged equities	8.6	3.5	0.0	5.2
Property	1.2	0.9	0.0	0.3
Commodity-linked	3.0	2.3	0.0	0.7
Bonds	12.5	9.1	1.5	1.9
Money market and bank deposits	4.5	2.3	-0.1	2.2
Total (%)	100.0	68.6	4.5	26.9°

- 7. Underlying holdings of Orbis funds are included on a look-through basis
- 8. Includes holding in stub certificates or Prosus N.V., if applicable.
- 9. The Fund can invest a maximum of 45% offshore. Market movements periodically cause the Fund to move beyond these limits. This must be corrected within 12 months.

## Total expense ratio (TER) and transaction costs

TER and transaction costs breakdown for the 1- and 3-year period ending 31 March 2022	1yr %	3yr %
Total expense ratio	1.04	0.93
Fee for benchmark performance	1.02	1.05
Performance fees	-0.11	-0.25
Other costs excluding transaction costs	0.03	0.04
VAT	0.10	0.09
Transaction costs (including VAT)	0.07	0.08
Total investment charge	1.11	1.01

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

Minimum	(February 2000) 49.3%
Average	63.0%
Maximum	(May 2021) 72.9%

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

**ALLANGRAY** 

31 May 2022

For the quarter, the Fund returned 1.5%. This is relatively muted in absolute terms but better than the benchmark, which gave negative 1.5% for the quarter. Notably, the foreign portion of the Fund returned negative 6.6%, compared with a 60/40 benchmark return of negative 13.4%.

We have previously spoken about our significant underweight in US equities and our preference for depressed European, UK and emerging market equities in the offshore component. We have also had no exposure to developed world, long-dated sovereign bonds for some time, believing investors were taking on return-free risk by buying at generationally low interest rates. From early 2018 until the end of 2021, this positioning caused significant underperformance in the offshore component of our Fund, as US equities continued to outperform and yields on long-dated government bonds continued to compress, inflating bond prices.

However, with high commodity prices, inflation consistently above 5% in the US since June 2021 (7.9% as at the end of February 2022) and an overheating US economy, these trends have begun to reverse in 2022. Earlier this month, the Federal Reserve approved its first interest rate increase in more than three years and signalled its intention to keep hiking rates throughout 2022 and possibly into 2023. Year to date, the yield on 10-year government bonds in the US has increased from 1.5% to 2.3%, causing those same bonds to generate a negative return of 7.2% in US dollars. Higher interest rates have also meant higher discount rates, with a number of highly priced companies falling significantly and the S&P 500 down 4.6% in US dollars, year to date. Jacques Plaut discusses some of these movements in this quarter's Allan Gray Equity Fund commentary.

At this stage, we do not know whether global inflation will prove to be transitory or more persistent in nature. We do know that developed market government debt is at record levels and that the real yield on long-dated government bonds continues to be negative in many countries. We also know that the average earnings multiple one is paying for US equities remains high relative to history. As a result, we are of the view that we are at the early stages of this trend reversal and continue to see substantial upside in our offshore investments relative to overall global asset prices.

In contrast to global bond markets, the 10-year government bond in South Africa is providing real returns, with a benchmark rate now in the ballpark of 10% (real rate above 4%). The risks in South Africa are well known, but one is arguably being compensated for these higher risks at today's prices.

Following the Budget speech, the offshore investment limits for local unit trusts that are mandated to invest offshore, including those that comply with Regulation 28 of the Pension Funds Act, are increased to 45%. We continue to see significant value in our preferred JSE-listed equities, a number of which are global companies that happen to be listed in South Africa, and have not immediately reweighted our asset allocation positions as a result.

One such example is Glencore. Glencore produces and sells over 120 million tonnes of coal each year. Coal is arguably the dirtiest of fossil fuels, and we need to make a global effort to materially reduce our reliance on it over the next 30 to 40 years if we are to achieve our ambition of keeping climate change to a minimum. Glencore is not blind to this reality and has committed to responsibly winding down their mines over time and reinvesting the proceeds in more sustainable and greener metals. However, as it currently stands, many countries – emerging markets in particular – are reliant on coal for their primary energy needs. South Africa is no exception, with approximately 85% of our electricity continuing to be generated from coal.

Over the past few years, there has been huge pressure on companies to close and reduce investment into fossil fuel operations, coal in particular. In theory, this should drive a positive outcome from a climate change perspective.

Unfortunately, as a global society, we have been poor in terms of the speed and scale at which we have made greener alternatives a viable reality. As consumers are reluctant to reduce their overall energy needs, demand has remained sticky. With demand remaining elevated and supply under pressure, the coal price has rallied materially over the past 18 months. This has been exacerbated in the short term by COVID-19 supply disruptions and the events unfolding in Ukraine, with the related sanctions on Russian oil and gas.

It is important to note that a high coal price is favourable for Glencore's income statement in the short term, but it is also useful in the war against carbon emissions. That is because high prices reduce consumer demand and increase the incentive to produce and bring alternatives to market. There is a reasonable chance that the high prices we are seeing in fossil fuels today will ultimately accelerate their replacement by greener alternatives.

As a result, when valuing Glencore, we do not bake today's high coal prices into our valuation, and we place the coal business on a below-average multiple. However, what we believe the market fails to appreciate is just how important Glencore is to the energy transition. Glencore is one of the world's largest producers of zinc, cobalt, nickel and copper. The world will need to more than double its annual consumption of these four commodities as we scale up investments in electric vehicles, large-scale commercial batteries, wind and solar farms, and greater redundancy in electrical grids. At spot, the Glencore share price is discounting not only materially lower coal prices, but materially lower prices for these other commodities too. We like that risk-reward trade-off.

During the quarter, we bought Naspers, Prosus and AB InBev and sold Standard Bank.

Commentary contributed by Rory Kutisker-Jacobson

Fund manager quarterly commentary as at 31 March 2022

31 May 2022



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### Management Company

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

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

#### Performance

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

#### 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 Grav.

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

## **Compliance with Regulation 28**

The Fund is managed to comply with Regulation 28 of the Pension Funds Act 24 of 1956. 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 a reasonable 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).

## Foreign exposure

This fund may invest in foreign funds managed by Orbis Investment Management Limited, our offshore investment partner.

#### FTSE/JSE All Share Index

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#### Need more information?

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