

Fund manager: Londa Nxumalo Inception date: 1 October 2004

# 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 Fund aims to provide investors with a real return over the long term and outperform the FTSE/JSE All Bond Index at no greater risk.

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

We formulate a view of the long-term inflation rate. This forecast together with an estimate of a reasonable real return requirement for bond investors is used to determine a fair value for the various bonds in the South African market. The assets in the Fund are then optimised to give investors the highest returns based on the managers' fair value estimates.

### 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

### Minimum investment amounts

Minimum lump sum per investor account	R20 000
Additional lump sum	R500
Minimum debit order*	R500

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

### Fund information on 31 October 2020

Fund size	R5.2bn
Number of units	462 023 948
Price (net asset value per unit)	R10.75
Modified duration	5.3
Gross yield (before fees)	9.0
Class	А

- 1. FTSE/JSE All Bond Index (source: IRESS), performance as calculated by Allan Gray as at 31 October 2020.
- 2. This is based on the latest available numbers published by IRESS as at 30 September 2020.
- 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 31 January 2015 and the benchmark's occurred during the 12 months ended 31 January 2015. The Fund's lowest annual return occurred during the 12 months ended 31 January 2016 and the benchmark's occurred during the 12 months ended 31 January 2016 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 2004)	290.5	265.0	136.4
Annualised:			
Since inception (1 October 2004)	8.8	8.4	5.5
Latest 10 years	8.2	7.6	5.1
Latest 5 years	8.3	7.5	4.6
Latest 3 years	8.8	8.5	4.0
Latest 2 years	8.5	8.8	3.6
Latest 1 year	4.3	4.9	3.0
Year-to-date (not annualised)	2.1	2.7	2.9
Risk measures (since inception)			
Maximum drawdown <sup>3</sup>	-18.9	-19.3	n/a
Percentage positive months <sup>4</sup>	72.0	67.9	n/a
Annualised monthly volatility <sup>5</sup>	5.9	7.5	n/a
Highest annual return <sup>6</sup>	18.0	21.2	n/a
Lowest annual return <sup>6</sup>	-2.6	-5.6	n/a



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# Meeting the Fund objective

Since inception and over the latest 10- and five-year periods, the Fund has outperformed its benchmark. The Fund has provided returns in excess of CPI inflation for all three periods. The Fund aims to 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 Dec 2019	31 Mar 2020	30 Jun 2020	30 Sep 2020
Cents per unit	24.7456	26.1980	23.3855	24.3176

# Annual management fee

The fee rate is calculated daily by comparing the Fund's total performance over the last year, to that of the benchmark adjusted for Fund expenses and cash flows.

Minimum fee: 0.25% p.a. excl. VAT

If the Fund outperforms its benchmark, for each percentage of performance above the benchmark we add 0.25% to the minimum fee to a maximum fee of 0.75% p.a. excl. VAT. The fee rate is applied to the daily value of the Fund.

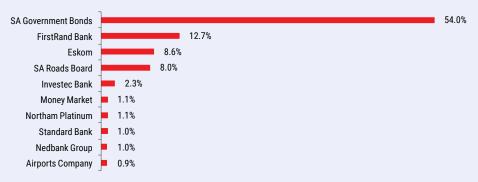
We will be transitioning the Fund's annual management fee to a fixed fee of 0.5% p.a. excl. VAT from 1 December 2020. For the first year, we will calculate both the above performance-based fee and the new fixed fee daily and will charge whichever is lower on the day. The new fixed fee will then become fully effective on 1 December 2021.

# Total expense ratio (TER) and Transaction costs

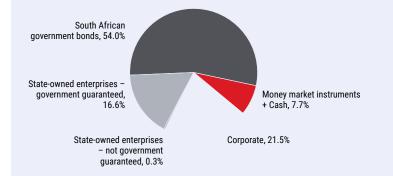
The annual management fee is included in the TER. The TER is a measure of the actual expenses incurred by the Fund over a one and three-year period (annualised). Since Fund returns are quoted after deduction of these expenses, the TER should not be deducted from the published returns (refer to page 4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

TER and Transaction costs breakdown for the 1- and 3-year period ending 30 September 2020	1yr %	3yr %
Total expense ratio	0.55	0.68
Fee for benchmark performance	0.25	0.25
Performance fees	0.22	0.33
Other costs excluding transaction costs	0.01	0.01
VAT	0.07	0.09
Transaction costs (including VAT)	0.00	0.00
Total investment charge	0.55	0.68

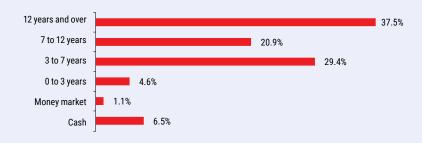
# Top 10 credit exposures on 31 October 2020



### Asset allocation on 31 October 2020



# Maturity profile on 31 October 2020



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

# **Allan Gray Bond Fund**

31 October 2020



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The big news of the quarter in fixed income markets was the US Federal Reserve (the Fed) announcing that it does not anticipate raising interest rates until at least 2023. The other significant announcement by the Fed was that it would tolerate inflation temporarily higher than its 2% target, using an average inflation-targeting approach instead. This news indicates that the prevailing easy monetary policy will not be shifting anytime soon.

Despite the continuation of easy money from developed country central banks, South African bonds have not received their fair share of the resulting inflows into emerging markets. Although foreign investors have stopped selling South African bonds, their share of the total amount outstanding has dropped below 30% for the first time since March 2012, just before South Africa was included in the World Government Bond Index. The implication of this is that foreign investors have not been fully participating in National Treasury's ongoing bond auctions.

The performance of South African bonds during the quarter followed a similar theme to that seen in the first half of the year, with the front end of the yield curve outperforming the long end due to negativity about South Africa's long-term fiscal trajectory. All eyes will be on October's Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement for clues on how the Finance Minister intends to bring about much-needed fiscal consolidation. However, all has not been doom and gloom

for nominal bonds, with inflation remaining well contained. After troughing at around 2% in the middle of the year, inflation has started to tick up, printing at 3.1% in August. Having cut interest rates by 25 basis points (bps) in July, the South African Reserve Bank chose to hold rates in September, indicating that this may be the end of the rate-cutting cycle.

Primary market activity held up well in the domestic credit market. The quarter even saw auction activity for the first time since March, with Thekwini Fund 16, Mercedes Benz and Standard Bank resuming auctions. Bank paper has been well bid, with credit spreads tightening across the curve. Similarly, blue chip corporate names are also in high demand. Notable sectors where credit spreads remain wide are property and state-owned development finance institutions.

The Allan Gray Bond Fund returned 0.6% over the quarter, less than the FTSE/JSE All Bond Index (ALBI) return of 1.5%. This underperformance was due to the Fund's relatively higher weighting towards the long end of the yield curve, which sold off during the quarter. We have been taking profit on long-dated government bonds purchased earlier in the year and reducing duration. The duration of the Fund is now 5.6 years relative to the ALBI at 6.3 years.

Commentary contributed by Londa Nxumalo

Fund manager quarterly commentary as at 30 September 2020



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# **Management Company**

Allan Gray Unit Trust Management (RF) Proprietary Limited (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 11 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 Proprietary Limited (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)87 736 1732 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. Where annualised performance is mentioned, this refers to the average return per year over the period. Actual investor performance may differ as a result of the investment date, the date of reinvestment and applicable taxes.

### Fund mandate

The Fund may be closed to new investments at any time in order to be managed according to its mandate. Unit trusts are traded at ruling prices and can engage in borrowing and scrip lending. The Fund may borrow up to 10% of its 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 Allan Gray Bond Fund yield is current, calculated as at month-end.

### Fees

Permissible deductions may include management fees, brokerage, Securities Transfer Tax (STT), 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 [STT], STRATE and Investor Protection Levy and VAT thereon) are shown separately. Transaction costs are a necessary cost 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. 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).

#### FTSE/JSE All Bond Index

The FTSE/JSE All Bond Index is calculated by FTSE International Limited ('FTSE') in conjunction with the JSE Limited ('JSE') in accordance with standard criteria. The FTSE/JSE All Bond Index is the proprietary information of FTSE and the JSE. All copyright subsisting in the FTSE/JSE All Bond Index values and constituent lists vests in FTSE and the JSE jointly. All their rights are reserved.

# Important information for investors

### Need more information?

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