

**Fund description and summary of investment policy**

The Fund invests in a mix of shares, bonds, property, commodities and cash. The Fund can invest a maximum of 45% offshore. The Fund typically invests the bulk of its foreign allowance in a mix of funds managed by Orbis Investment Management Limited, our offshore investment partner. The maximum net equity exposure of the Fund is 40%. The Fund’s net equity exposure may be reduced from time to time using exchange-traded derivative contracts on stock market indices. The Fund is managed to comply with the investment limits governing retirement funds. Returns are likely to be less volatile than those of an equity-only fund or a balanced fund.

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

**Fund objective and benchmark**

The Fund aims to provide a high degree of capital stability and to minimise the risk of loss over any two-year period, while producing long-term returns that are superior to bank deposits. The Fund’s benchmark is the daily interest rate, as supplied by FirstRand Bank Limited, plus 2%.

**How we aim to achieve the Fund’s objective**

A major portion of the Fund is typically invested in money market instruments. We seek to deploy the Fund’s cash by investing in shares when they can be bought at a significant discount to their intrinsic value. We thoroughly research companies to assess their intrinsic value from a long-term perspective. This long-term perspective enables us to buy shares which are shunned by the stock market because of their unexciting or poor short-term prospects, but which are relatively attractively priced if one looks to the long term. If the stock market offers few attractive shares, we may allocate a low weight to shares or partially hedge the Fund’s stock market exposure in consideration of the Fund’s capital preservation objectives. The Fund may also invest in bonds, property and commodities. The Fund’s bond and money market investments are actively managed.

**Suitable for those investors who**

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

**Minimum investment amounts\***

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

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

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

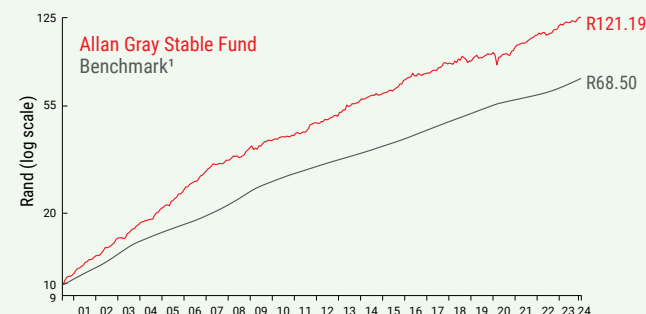
**Fund information on 31 January 2024**

Fund size	R51.7bn
Number of units	568 534 839
Price (net asset value per unit)	R43.83
Class	A

1. The Fund’s benchmark is the daily interest rate, as supplied by FirstRand Bank, plus 2%, performance as calculated by Allan Gray as at 31 January 2024.
2. This is based on the latest available numbers published by IRESS as at 31 December 2023.
3. Maximum percentage decline over any period. The maximum drawdown occurred from 20 January 2020 to 23 March 2020. Drawdown is calculated on the total return of the Fund (i.e. including income).
4. The percentage of calendar months in which the Fund produced a positive monthly return since inception.
5. The standard deviation of the Fund’s monthly return. This is a measure of how much an investment’s return varies from its average over time.
6. These are the highest or lowest consecutive 12-month returns since inception. This is a measure of how much the Fund and the benchmark returns have varied per rolling 12-month period. The Fund’s highest annual return occurred during the 12 months ended 30 April 2006 and the benchmark’s occurred during the 12 months ended 30 June 2003. The Fund’s lowest annual return occurred during the 12 months ended 31 March 2020 and the benchmark’s occurred during the 12 months ended 31 August 2021. All rolling 12-month figures for the Fund and the benchmark are available from our Client Service Centre on request.

**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>
<b>Cumulative:</b>			
Since inception (1 July 2000)	1111.9	585.0	252.2
<b>Annualised:</b>			
Since inception (1 July 2000)	11.2	8.5	5.5
Latest 10 years	7.9	7.2	5.2
Latest 5 years	8.5	6.7	5.0
Latest 3 years	9.7	6.9	6.1
Latest 2 years	8.7	8.0	6.2
Latest 1 year	8.2	9.4	5.1
Year-to-date (not annualised)	0.2	0.8	0.0
<b>Risk measures (since inception)</b>			
Maximum drawdown <sup>3</sup>	-16.7	n/a	n/a
Percentage positive months <sup>4</sup>	77.7	100.0	n/a
Annualised monthly volatility <sup>5</sup>	5.2	0.7	n/a
Highest annual return <sup>6</sup>	23.3	14.6	n/a
Lowest annual return <sup>6</sup>	-7.4	4.6	n/a

### Meeting the Fund objective

Since inception and over the latest 10- and five-year periods, the Fund has outperformed its benchmark. The Fund has provided returns in excess of CPI inflation for all three periods. The Fund aims to minimise the risk of loss over any two-year period.

### Income distributions for the last 12 months

To the extent that income earned in the form of dividends and interest exceeds expenses in the Fund, the Fund will distribute any surplus quarterly.	31 Mar 2023	30 Jun 2023	30 Sep 2023	31 Dec 2023
<b>Cents per unit</b>	<b>37.7005*</b>	<b>36.6206</b>	<b>44.1534</b>	<b>42.0767</b>

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

### Annual management fee

Allan Gray charges a fee based on the net asset value of the Fund excluding the portion invested in Orbis funds. The fee rate is calculated daily by comparing the Fund's total performance over the last two years, to that of the benchmark. If the Fund's return over two years is equal to or less than 0%, Allan Gray will not charge a fee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Top 10 share holdings on 31 December 2023 (SA and Foreign) (updated quarterly)<sup>7</sup>

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

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

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

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

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

### Top credit exposures on 31 December 2023 (SA and Foreign) (updated quarterly)<sup>7,8</sup>

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

### Asset allocation on 31 January 2024<sup>7</sup>

Asset class	Total	South Africa	Foreign
Net equities	25.4	13.2	12.2
Hedged equities	19.6	8.9	10.6
Property	0.9	0.7	0.2
Commodity-linked	2.1	1.6	0.5
Bonds	33.0	25.1	7.9
Money market and bank deposits <sup>9</sup>	19.0	20.7	-1.7
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>70.3</b>	<b>29.7<sup>10</sup></b>

9. Including currency hedges.

10. The Fund can invest a maximum of 45% offshore. Market movements may periodically cause the Fund to move beyond these limits. This must be corrected within 12 months.

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

Minimum	(January 2010) 12.4%
Average	26.4%
Maximum	(December 2018) 39.6%

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

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

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

#### **So where are we at this point in the cycle?**

Local fixed income is offering attractive real yields. We can construct a fixed income allocation for the Fund that not only has an attractive yield but also a low modified duration, which is a measure of risk to changes in interest rates. The Fund's local fixed income has a yield of 8.9% with a modified duration of 2.3. We have invested a third of our money market exposure into five-year fixed deposits yielding 10%. Offshore fixed income is attractive with hard currency US dollar short-term rates paying 5% and higher. This includes floating-rate debt in

high-quality US financial institutions. While we might be close to the peak of the rate cycle, with the result that some of the high yields roll off over time, the yields remain attractive. We think there is a reasonable chance that rates stay higher than the market is currently discounting.

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

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

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

**Commentary contributed by Duncan Artus**

### **Fund manager quarterly commentary as at 31 December 2023**

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Allan Gray is an authorised financial services provider.

## Management Company

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

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

## Performance

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

## Fund mandate

Funds may be closed to new investments at any time in order to be managed according to their mandates. Unit trusts are traded at ruling prices and can engage in borrowing and scrip lending. The funds may borrow up to 10% of their market value to bridge insufficient liquidity.

## Unit price

Unit trust prices are calculated on a net asset value basis, which is the total market value of all assets in the Fund, including any income accruals and less any permissible deductions from the Fund, divided by the number of units in issue. Forward pricing is used and fund valuations take place at approximately 16:00 each business day. Purchase and redemption requests must be received by the Management Company by 14:00 each business day to receive that day's price. Unit trust prices are available daily on www.allangray.co.za.

Minimum disclosure document and quarterly general investors' report **Issued:** 9 February 2024

## Fees

Permissible deductions may include management fees, brokerage, securities transfer tax, auditor's fees, bank charges and trustee fees. A schedule of fees, charges and maximum commissions is available on request from Allan Gray. For more information about our annual management fees, refer to the [frequently asked questions](#), available via the Allan Gray website.

## Total expense ratio (TER) and transaction costs

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

## Compliance with Regulation 28

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

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

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## FTSE Russell Index

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