# AllanGRAY

**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

30 June 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 30 June 2025

R4.1bn
190 734 904
R18.87
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 30 June 2025.
- 2. CPI inflation has been calculated based on the most recent rebased values from Stats SA, reflecting the data as at 31 May 2025 (source: IRESS).
- 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. All rolling the 12 months 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 February 2016)	133.6	115.1	55.9
Annualised:			
Since inception (1 February 2016)	9.4	8.5	4.9
Latest 5 years	14.0	12.5	5.2
Latest 3 years	15.3	14.3	4.8
Latest 2 years	14.5	13.1	4.0
Latest 1 year	19.8	17.1	2.8
Year-to-date (not annualised)	12.3	8.9	2.2
Risk measures (since inception)			
Maximum drawdown <sup>3</sup>	-24.6	-23.3	n/a
Percentage positive months <sup>4</sup>	69.0	66.4	n/a
Annualised monthly volatility <sup>5</sup>	8.9	8.8	n/a
Highest annual return <sup>6</sup>	31.7	30.7	n/a
Lowest annual return <sup>6</sup>	-13.4	-10.3	n/a

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# Allan Gray Tax-Free Balanced Fund

30 June 2025

### **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.	31 Dec 2024	30 Jun 2025
Cents per unit	17.6520	21.6692

## 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 30 June 2025 (SA and Foreign)** (updated quarterly)<sup>7</sup>

Company	% of portfolio
AB InBev	4.0
British American Tobacco	3.7
Naspers & Prosus	3.7
AngloGold Ashanti	2.0
Standard Bank	2.0
The Walt Disney Company	1.9
Nedbank	1.9
Woolworths	1.7
Glencore	1.6
Remgro	1.4
Total (%)	24.0

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

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

TER and transaction costs breakdown for the 1- and 3-year period ending 30 June 2025	1yr %	3yr %
Total expense ratio	1.50	1.49
Fee for benchmark performance	1.32	1.31
Other costs excluding transaction costs	0.04	0.04
VAT	0.14	0.14
Transaction costs (including VAT)	0.08	0.07
Total investment charge	1.58	1.56

## Asset allocation on 30 June 20257

Asset class	Total	South Africa	Foreign
Net equities	62.6	35.8	26.8
Hedged equities	8.8	3.0	5.8
Property	1.0	0.1	0.8
Commodity-linked	3.1	2.6	0.6
Bonds	17.0	12.4	4.6
Money market and cash <sup>8</sup>	7.6	8.9	-1.3
Total (%)	100.0	62.7	37.3°

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.

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

Minimum	57.5% (February 2016)
Average	64.3%
Maximum	72.5% (May 2021)

# AllanGray

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# Allan Gray Tax-Free Balanced Fund

30 June 2025

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For the quarter, the FTSE/JSE All Share Index (ALSI) returned 10.2%, the FTSE/JSE All Bond Index returned 5.9% and the Fund returned 8.2%. If that was all you knew, you might think it was a relatively benign quarter, but uneventful it was not.

The quarter began with "Liberation Day" on 2 April when President Trump surprised markets with the degree and severity with which he proposed imposing import tariffs on every country that the US trades with. Even territories uninhabited by humans, such as the Heard and McDonald Islands, were threatened with tariffs. The market reaction was swift, and by 7 April, the ALSI was down 7.0% for the quarter in rands. Offshore, in US dollars, the S&P 500 was down 9.8%, while the MSCI World Index was down 9.9%.

When the US bond market began to buckle, President Trump walked back many of the proposed tariffs, either through revised agreements or 90-day pauses. Within weeks, markets had forgotten the panic of early April, continuing their upward trajectory and largely ignoring the future risk of elevated tariffs on global trade and gross domestic product (GDP).

Domestically, tensions remained elevated in the government of national unity, as the Budget was revised a third time and finally passed in May, with the proposed VAT increase abandoned. Where exactly the SA government will source the funds to finance our growing budget deficit is not entirely clear.

The quarter ended with the already tense situation in the Middle East reaching boiling point, as both Israel and the US bombed Iran, and Iran responded with missile strikes of their own. At quarter end, the countries had entered into a fragile ceasefire agreement.

Against this backdrop, we continue to do what we have always done: ignore short-term noise, and invest in assets we believe offer a margin of safety and potential for long-term outperformance. To the extent that the short-term market volatility created opportunities over the quarter to pick up previously expensive assets on the cheap, we looked to capitalise on those.

#### Positioning

Our positioning remained largely unchanged over the quarter. The direct offshore exposure of the Fund was 37%. However, if you include the dual-listed businesses that make the majority of their money offshore, the foreign exposure of the Fund was north of 50% on a look-through basis.

The three largest share positions in the Fund, namely British American Tobacco, AB InBev, and Naspers and Prosus, remain unchanged.

**British American Tobacco:** Continued volume declines in traditional cigarettes, slower-than-expected growth in vape products and concerns over the US regulatory environment continue to weigh on sentiment. However, we believe the market is overly focused on these elements and underappreciates British American Tobacco's resilient cashflows, attractive dividend yield and its rapidly growing Velo product (tobacco-free modern oral). The share trades at a significant discount to intrinsic value and, in our view, offers compelling long-term return prospects.

**AB InBev:** The world's largest brewer has performed well amid a challenging consumer environment. Despite inflationary pressure and demand challenges in key geographies, AB InBev's cost discipline, pricing power and dominant market positions support earnings growth. Investors remain sceptical due to the company's debt burden and skew to emerging markets, yet we believe the deleveraging trajectory is intact and underappreciated. The valuation remains undemanding, and we are comfortable with our continued exposure.

Naspers and Prosus: Capital allocation has long been a source of frustration for shareholders in Naspers and Prosus. In recent years, this has improved – most notably via the value unlock through their ongoing share repurchase programme which is funded by Tencent share sales. They continue to trade at a material discount to their key holding in Tencent, which in itself we think is attractive and continues to deliver solid results. However, the regulatory and geopolitical risk around Tencent is non-zero, and for us, it therefore becomes about managing position size. We believe the current exposure is appropriate given the idiosyncratic and hard-to-quantify geopolitical risk.

As all these shares have rallied throughout the year, we have been trimming our positions.

Offshore, our partner, Orbis, has delivered excellent year-to-date results despite the continued underweight to US technology shares. While we remain cautious on indexlevel valuations at both Allan Gray and Orbis, we do hold select US exposure – favouring companies with strong balance sheets, durable competitive advantages and reasonable valuations. Where valuations do not offer a margin of safety, Orbis has shown the discipline to rotate into less crowded areas of the market, and continues to see much greater value outside the US than within it.

#### Looking ahead

We do not attempt to predict short-term market moves or macroeconomic surprises. Even if we did, we don't think we'd be any good at it. Instead, we focus on identifying assets with robust fundamentals trading at attractive prices. In uncertain environments, we believe this long-term orientation, underpinned by valuation discipline and a contrarian mindset, is essential to preserving and growing our clients' wealth.

During the quarter, we added to Glencore and reduced our exposure to Gold Fields.

Commentary contributed by Rory Kutisker-Jacobson

# Fund manager quarterly commentary as at 30 June 2025

# AllanGray

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# Allan Gray Tax-Free Balanced Fund

for investors

**Important information** 

30 June 2025

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

#### Performance

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

#### Fund mandate

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

#### Unit price

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

#### Fees

Permissible deductions may include management fees, brokerage, securities transfer tax, auditor's fees, bank charges and trustee fees. A schedule of fees, charges and maximum commissions is available on request from Allan Gray. For more information about our annual management fees, refer to the <u>frequently</u> <u>asked questions</u>, 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 Minimum disclosure document and guarterly general investors' report **Issued:** 10 July 2025

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).

# $\ensuremath{\mathsf{FTSE}}\xspace/\mathsf{JSE}$ All Share Index, $\ensuremath{\mathsf{FTSE}}\xspace/\mathsf{JSE}$ All Share Index and $\ensuremath{\mathsf{FTSE}}\xspace/\mathsf{JSE}$ All Bond Index

The FTSE/JSE All Share Index, FTSE/JSE Capped Shareholder Weighted All Share Index and FTSE/JSE All Bond Index are calculated by FTSE International Limited ('FTSE') in conjunction with the JSE Limited ('JSE') in a cordance with standard criteria. The FTSE/JSE All Share Index, FTSE/JSE Capped Shareholder Weighted All Share Index and FTSE/JSE All Bond Index are the proprietary information of FTSE and the JSE. All copyright subsisting in the values and constituent lists of the FTSE/JSE All Share Index, FTSE/JSE Capped Shareholder Weighted All Share Index and FTSE/JSE All Bond Index vests in FTSE and the JSE (JSE) in the values and FTSE/JSE All Bond Index vests in FTSE and the JSE (JSE) and the JSE (JSE)

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