



August Report 2025

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FSP 1722

THE PINNACLE
OF FINANCIAL
SOLUTIONS



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Summary Of Market Returns

August 2025:

Global equity markets remained broadly positive in August. This occurs despite weaker-than-expected US job market figures, as well as a report released by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) suggesting that artificial intelligence pilot programmes were not boosting corporate revenue growth. Due to a shift in economic risks, Fed Chairman Jerome Powell hinted at a policy change at the annual Jackson Hole meeting, making a September rate cut highly likely. Markets have largely begun to look beyond the current level of policy uncertainty, with the latest being the US proposing a 50% tariff on India in an effort to reduce its dependence on Russian oil and gas imports. The US and China extended their trade truce until 10 November, which benefited Chinese export firms. Chinese tech names were also boosted by the government announcing intentions to triple the chip supply in 2026.

South African equity markets again outperformed their emerging market counterparts for the fifth month this year, largely due to continued strong performance in the resources sector. The index reached new highs during the month and is now comfortably above the 100,000 level, which it so briefly touched last month. The July inflation print saw inflation rise to 3.5% (up from 3.0% in June), which was in line with market expectations.

- The JSE All Share had another strong positive month, up **3.5%**.
- All three major sectors supported the bourse, as Industrials (up **1.1%**), and Financials (up **0.8%**) continued to grow, while Resources (up **11.4%**) surged higher again.
- Small-caps (up **1.9%**) and Large-caps (up **3.9%**) boasted healthy returns, while Mid-caps (down **0.6%**) contracted slightly.
- The South African property markets delivered another positive month for investors, as the ALPI added **2.8%**, and the S&P SA REIT Index grew **2.2%**.
- SA Nominal Bonds (up **0.7%**) took a slight breather for the month. Inflation-Linked Bonds inched higher, up **1.7%**, on the back of the month's slightly higher inflation print.
- Developed market equities closed higher in US dollar terms, as the MSCI World Index rose **2.6%**, outperforming the MSCI Emerging Market Index (up **1.5%**) for only the third month this year.
- The rand had a strong month in terms of dollar relative performance. Relative to the U.S. Dollar (Rand appreciated **2.1%**), the Euro (Rand depreciated **0.1%**) and the Pound Sterling (Rand appreciated **0.1%**).
- Resources had another strong month, as Gold (up **5.5%**) and Platinum (up **6.2%**) climbed higher. Brent Crude dropped **6.1%** over the month, as supply increased.

Asset Class Performance

Performance of Asset Classes in ZAR Currency

2025/08/31	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	YTD	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	5 Years
ALSI	3.53%	8.38%	20.78%	23.57%	25.82%	20.85%	19.13%	17.23%
Property	2.04%	6.26%	16.17%	12.97%	18.36%	27.88%	21.51%	21.24%
ALBI	0.75%	5.87%	9.79%	10.35%	15.11%	16.84%	13.64%	11.33%
Cash (STeFI)	0.61%	1.84%	3.77%	5.06%	7.92%	8.22%	7.91%	6.38%
MSCI ACWI NR USD	0.27%	6.34%	5.99%	7.17%	15.40%	15.57%	19.13%	12.98%
FTSE EPRA NAREIT Global REITs TR USD	1.91%	1.77%	-1.03%	1.58%	1.51%	6.08%	6.31%	7.54%
Bloomberg Global Aggregate TR USD	-0.73%	-0.22%	0.13%	0.53%	3.11%	1.66%	4.68%	-0.90%
Secured Overnight Financing Rate(SOFR) USD	-1.78%	-0.92%	-2.60%	-3.45%	4.29%	1.60%	6.22%	3.94%

Performance of Asset Classes in USD Currency

2025/08/31	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	YTD	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	5 Years
MSCI ACWI NR USD	2.47%	8.52%	11.25%	14.30%	15.79%	19.56%	17.66%	12.00%
FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Global REITs TR USD	4.15%	3.87%	3.89%	8.33%	1.86%	9.74%	4.99%	6.61%
Bloomberg Global Aggregate TR USD	1.45%	1.84%	5.10%	7.21%	3.47%	5.17%	3.39%	-1.76%
Secured Overnight Financing Rate(SOFR)	0.37%	1.11%	2.24%	2.97%	4.65%	5.10%	4.90%	3.04%

Currencies

	Value at end 2025/08/31	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	5 Years
RAND/DOLLAR	17.60	-2.01%	-4.73%	-0.34%	-3.33%	1.25%	0.87%
RAND/STERLING	24.03	-1.83%	2.22%	2.45%	-0.18%	6.42%	1.05%
RAND/EURO	20.74	1.03%	7.22%	5.38%	0.39%	6.51%	0.44%

Offshore Market Indices in USD Currency

2025/08/31	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	YTD	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	5 Years
MSCI ACWI NR USD	2.47%	8.52%	11.25%	14.30%	15.79%	19.56%	17.66%	12.00%
MSCI ACWI GR USD	2.51%	8.64%	11.56%	14.67%	16.33%	20.10%	18.22%	12.52%
S&P 500 Composite TR USD	2.03%	9.62%	9.21%	10.79%	15.88%	21.38%	19.54%	14.74%
FTSE 100 TR GBP	3.35%	5.84%	14.54%	24.73%	16.83%	19.01%	17.88%	13.33%
FTSE Germany TR GBP	1.28%	1.84%	18.38%	34.68%	31.95%	26.45%	28.55%	10.89%
MSCI Hong Kong Value PR USD	0.26%	10.86%	20.48%	22.58%	21.80%	7.77%	-1.34%	-2.48%
MSCI World GR USD	2.64%	8.50%	10.97%	14.12%	16.17%	20.51%	19.06%	13.42%
MSCI EM GR USD	1.47%	9.87%	16.92%	19.63%	17.66%	16.58%	11.39%	5.69%
SSE Composite Index PR CNY	8.88%	16.27%	18.62%	17.79%	34.89%	12.42%	5.21%	1.77%
Nikkei 225 Average TR JPY	6.68%	10.84%	19.27%	15.93%	11.75%	16.12%	15.10%	7.98%
FSE DAX TR EUR	1.57%	2.69%	19.29%	35.71%	33.68%	27.14%	29.42%	12.56%
Euronext Paris CAC 40 NR EUR	1.37%	2.73%	9.15%	20.59%	9.36%	9.13%	16.27%	11.25%
DJ Americas TR USD	2.31%	9.78%	9.89%	11.51%	16.49%	21.07%	18.97%	14.16%

Snapshot of APS Fund Performance

Annualised APS Fund Returns

2025/08/31	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	Ytd	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
APS Ci Cautious A1	0.68	3.06	4.48	4.68	8.64	9.65	8.30	6.97
(ASISA) South African MA Low Equity	1.01	4.41	7.63	8.68	12.53	11.65	9.84	7.62
APS Ci Moderate A1	1.03	3.63	6.85	6.74	10.48	10.98	9.91	7.31
(ASISA) South African MA Medium Equity	1.15	5.13	8.95	9.99	14.09	12.53	10.83	7.73
APS Ci Managed Growth A1	1.36	4.38	8.69	8.53	12.46	12.14	10.67	7.37
(ASISA) South African MA High Equity	1.12	5.36	9.71	10.71	15.01	13.48	11.99	8.03
APS Ci Equity A1	2.18	5.37	10.85	10.66	14.52	12.33	12.25	8.42
(ASISA) South African EQ General	2.12	6.72	14.39	15.32	18.46	14.34	14.65	7.82
APS Ci Global Flexible FF B	0.19	3.28	1.10	1.28	7.34	10.73	6.02	
(ASISA) Global MA Flexible	-0.26	4.44	4.04	5.07	10.69	11.95	6.94	8.53
APS Global Flexible Fund A USD Acc	1.98	5.12	5.85	7.77	7.59	9.68	5.15	5.17
EAA Fund USD Flexible Allocation	1.45	4.82	5.68	7.91	7.94	7.91	4.61	4.02

Source: Morningstar Direct. Returns are based on a lump sum investment with all distributions reinvested on a nav-nav basis. Returns longer than 1 year are annualized.

Our Partners:

STANLIB

Stanlib Corporate Money Market Fund:

The Fund has a AA+(Zaf) long-term rating from Fitch. The Fund invests predominantly in the major South African Registered Banking institutions and Foreign Banking institutions authorised to conduct business in South Africa, and which have appropriately sound credit ratings. South African registered institutions must have at least a national short-term credit rating that is defined as 'highest credit quality' (Fitch: F1). Maximum weighted average duration is 90 days.



Fixed Income:

Ci Diversified Income Fund is an active Fixed Income Fund managed by Analytics Consulting. The Fund aims to provide investors with a high level of income and capital preservation. The Fund has a low risk rating and is benchmarked against the SteFI Composite Index.



Ninety One Diversified Income Fund aims to provide a high level of income while seeking opportunities to maximise capital growth. The Fund invests in a broad range of fixed income instruments (contracts to repay borrowed money which typically pay interest at fixed times) including government and corporate bonds. Other investments may include company shares, the units of other funds (including foreign funds), cash, property related securities (financial contracts evidencing ownership or debt) and derivatives (financial contracts whose value is linked to the price of an underlying asset). Between 5% and 25% of the Fund's value will typically be invested in property. The Fund is managed by Malcolm Charles and Peter Kent.



APS Global Flexible Fund is an actively managed Global Fund managed by Ci Global Fund Managers with SIP Mauritius and APS International acting as Investment Advisors.

APS Bespoke Global Equity is a rules-based equity mandate of select Global stocks within the APS Global Flexible Fund.

Global Partners:

iShares World Equity Index provides investors with low-cost exposure to global equities through passive investments tracking the MSCI World Equity Index.

GQG Partners Global Equity seeks long-term capital appreciation by investing in high-quality companies with attractive growth prospects across both developed and emerging markets. The fund's investment process involves evaluating each business based on financial strength, sustainability of earnings growth, and quality of management, aiming to manage downside risk while providing attractive returns over a full market cycle.

Global Fixed Income:

The PIMCO Low Duration Income Fund aims to maximize current income, with long-term capital appreciation as a secondary goal. It invests at least 65% of its assets in a diversified portfolio of fixed income securities across various sectors, maintaining an average portfolio duration between zero and three years. The fund may allocate up to 30% of its assets to high-yield securities rated below investment grade.



Beta:

Ci Equity Fund provides investors with low-cost exposure to South African equities through passive investment strategies referencing the S&P South Africa Domestic Shareholder Weighted 100 Index.

Multi-Factor:

Ci Engineered Equity Core Fund is a multi-factor portfolio which seeks to provide investors with a premium over the market (beta) return over long periods of time. The Fund consists of Value, Momentum and Quality components, referencing the S&P QVM 40 Index.

Alpha:

Ci Alpha Fund utilises Fairtree Asset Management and aims to provide investors with alpha through active sector and stock selection. The portfolio has a long-term focus and invests in securities across all sectors of the JSE Securities Exchange which trade below intrinsic value or have capital appreciation potential.

APS Bespoke Local Equity is a rules-based equity mandate comprising select SA quality stocks within the APS Ci Funds. The Funds apply a buy and hold investment approach to this mandate, in order to reduce transaction costs.



Fund Performance:

- The APS Ci Cautious Fund underperformed the SA MA Low Equity Peergroup over the last year, underperformed over the last 3 years, and underperformed over the last 5 years.
- The APS Ci Moderate Fund underperformed the SA MA Medium Equity Peergroup over the last year, underperformed over the last 3 years, and underperformed over the last 5 years.
- The APS Ci Managed Growth Fund underperformed the SA MA High Equity Peergroup over the last year, underperformed over the last 3 years, and underperformed over the last 5 years.
- The APS Ci Equity Fund underperformed the SA Equity General Peergroup over the last year, underperformed over the last 3 years, and underperformed over the last 5 years.
- The APS Ci Worldwide Flexible FF underperformed the Global MA Flexible Peergroup over the last year, underperformed over the last 3 years, and underperformed over the last 5 years.
- The APS Global Flexible Fund USD underperformed the EAA Fund USD Flexible Allocation Peergroup over the last year, outperformed over the last 3 years, and outperformed over the last 5 years.



Asset allocation detracted value in the last year:

- Overweight Offshore detracted value.



Local Equity Performance added value in the last year:

- The equity components across the APS Ci Cautious, Moderate, Managed Growth and Equity Funds include the Ci Equity Fund, Ci Engineered Equity Core Fund, Ci Alpha Fund, and the APS Bespoke Equity mandate.
- The Ci Equity Fund is the beta component and provides passive access to South African equities. The Ci Alpha Fund uses active equity selection.
- Ci Engineered Equity Core Fund uses a multi-factor approach and aims to deliver returns above the market.



Local Fixed Income Performance added value in the last year:

- The Ci Diversified Income Fund provides exposure to shorter-dated fixed income instruments.
- Ninety One Diversified Income aims to provide a high level of income while seeking opportunities to maximise capital growth.



International Performance added value in the last year:

- The APS Global Flexible Fund currently includes a global equity securities mandates, three global equity instruments (GQG Global Equity Fund, iShares World Equity Index, and iShares Global Multifactor ETF), a global income fund managed by PIMCO, as well as two short-duration global Fixed Income funds.

APS Ci Cautious Fund

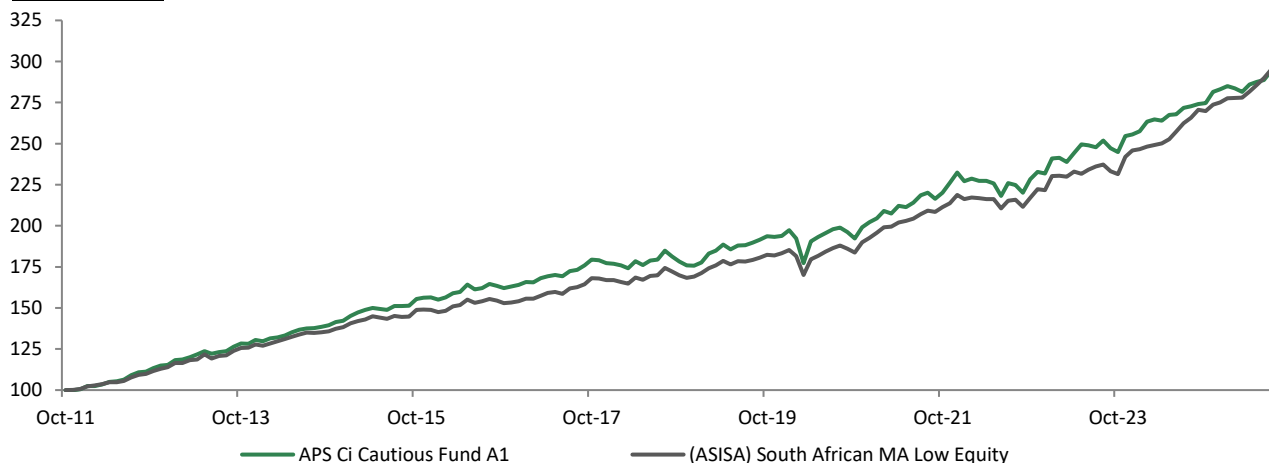
Trailing Returns

As at 2025/08/31

	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years
APS Ci Cautious A1	4.68	8.64	9.65	8.30
(ASISA) South African MA Low Equity	8.68	12.53	11.65	9.84

Cumulative Portfolio Performance

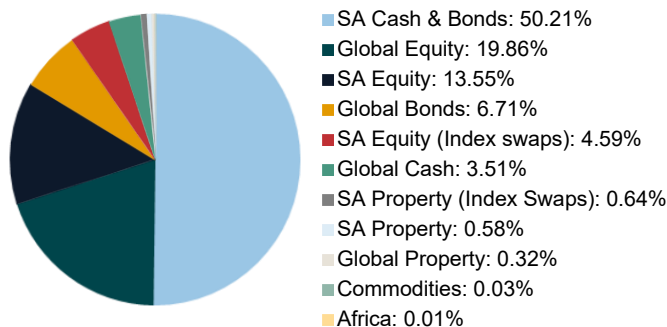
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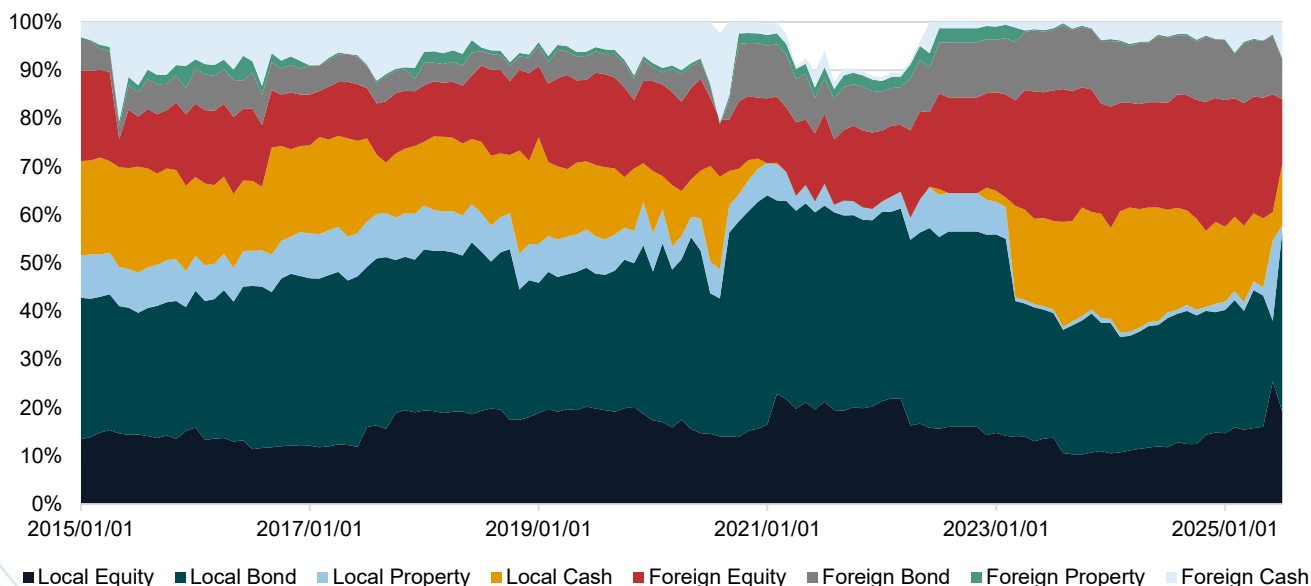
Top 10 Exposure

Standard Bank	0.94%
Microsoft	0.79%
Harmony Gold	0.76%
Capitec	0.75%
Apple	0.71%
Prosus NV	0.69%
Naspers Ltd	0.68%
Clicks	0.67%
NVIDIA Corporation	0.58%
Sanlam Ltd	0.53%

Asset Allocation



Asset Allocation Over Time



APS Ci Moderate Fund

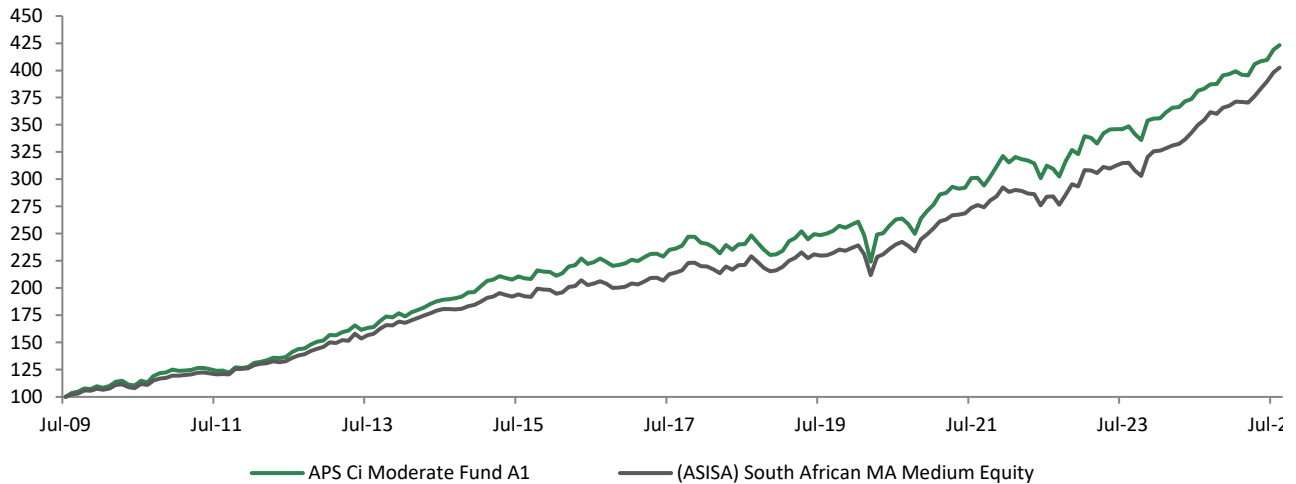
Trailing Returns

As at 2025/08/31

	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years
APS Ci Moderate A1	6.74	10.48	10.98	9.91
(ASISA) South African MA Medium Equity	9.99	14.09	12.53	10.83

Cumulative Portfolio Performance

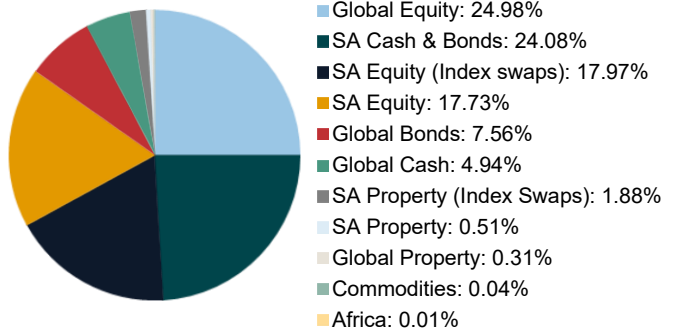
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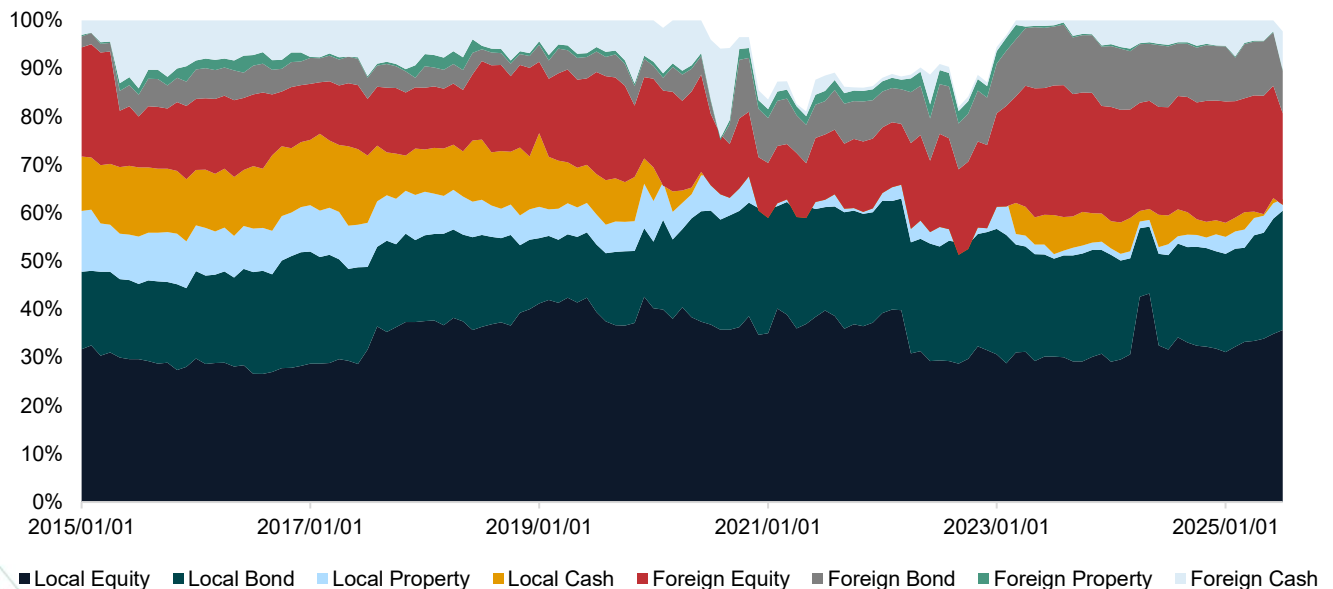
Top 10 Exposure

Standard Bank	2.28%
Harmony Gold	1.96%
Capitec	1.96%
Naspers Ltd	1.75%
Clicks	1.36%
Sanlam Ltd	1.29%
Nepi Rockcastle	1.24%
Mr Price	1.23%
Prosus NV	1.20%
FirstRand	1.18%

Asset Allocation



Asset Allocation Over Time



APS Ci Managed Growth Fund

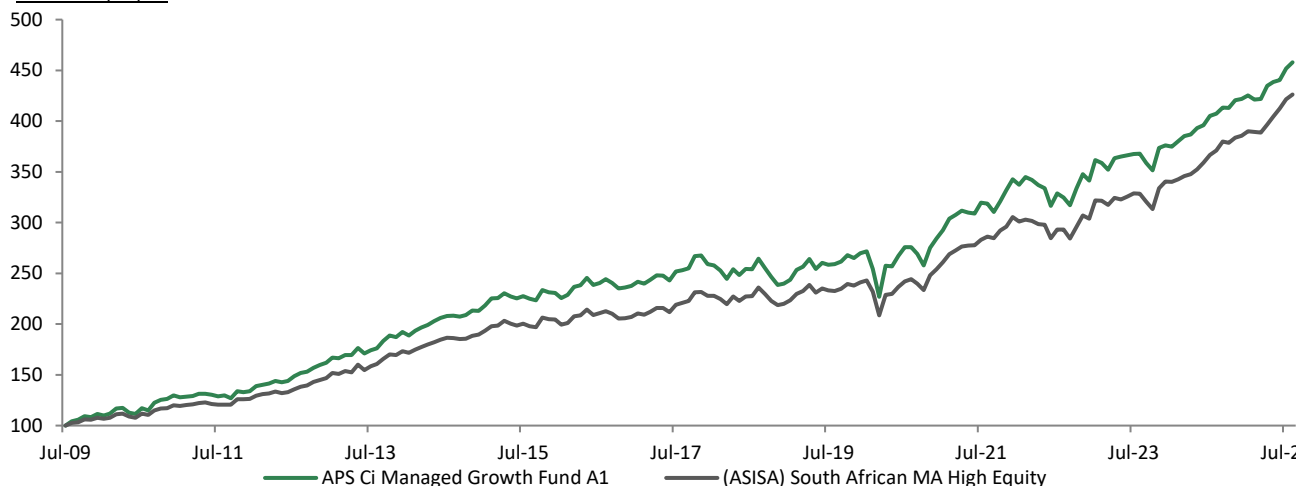
Trailing Returns

As at 2025/08/31

	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years
APS Ci Managed Growth A1	8.53	12.46	12.14	10.67
(ASISA) South African MA High Equity	10.71	15.01	13.48	11.99

Cumulative Portfolio Performance

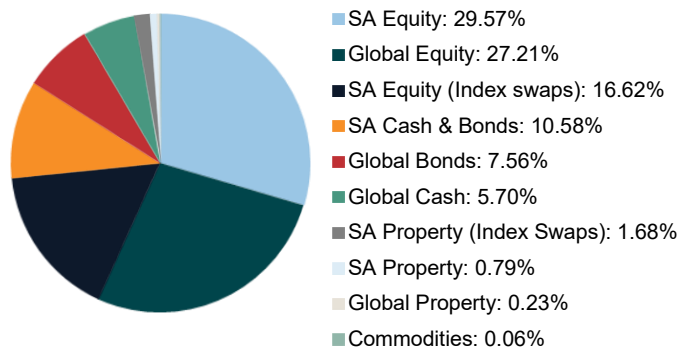
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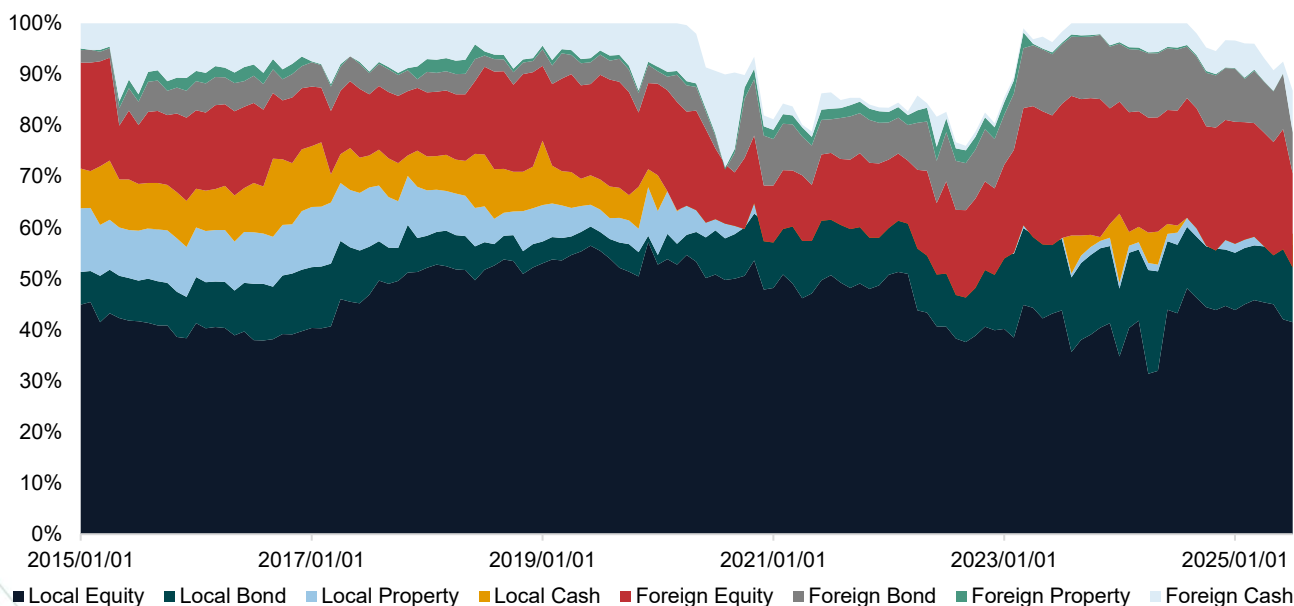
Top 10 Exposure

Naspers Ltd	2.91%
Standard Bank	2.84%
Capitec	2.33%
Harmony Gold	2.10%
Prosus NV	2.05%
Clicks	1.85%
FirstRand	1.77%
British American Tobacco	1.57%
Sanlam Ltd	1.54%
Gold Fields	1.47%

Asset Allocation



Asset Allocation Over Time



APS Ci Equity Fund

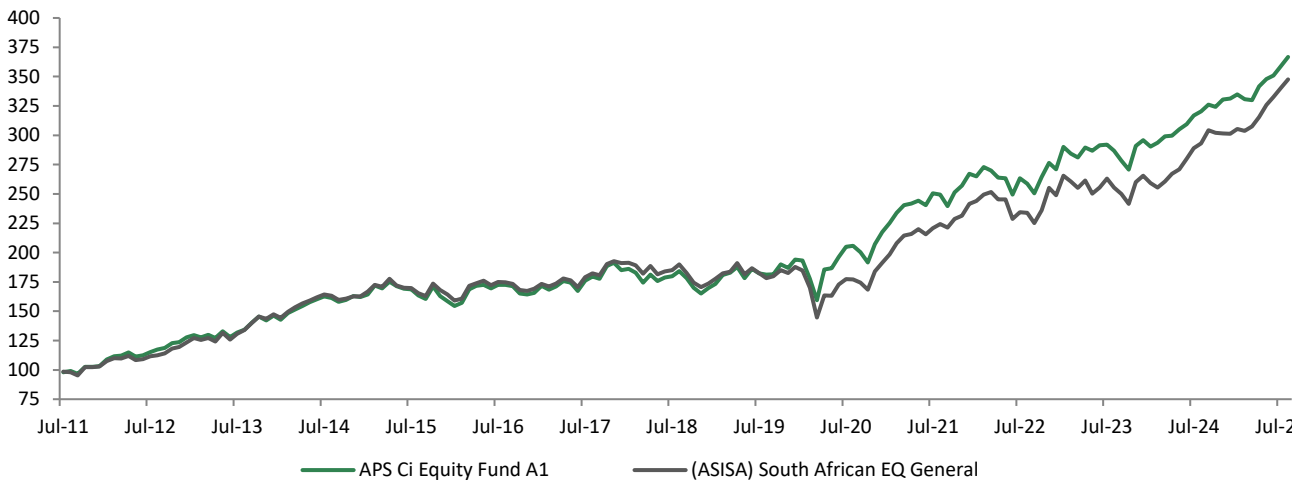
Trailing Returns

As at 2025/08/31

	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years
APS Ci Equity A1	10.66	14.52	12.33	12.25
(ASISA) South African EQ General	15.32	18.46	14.34	14.65

Cumulative Portfolio Performance

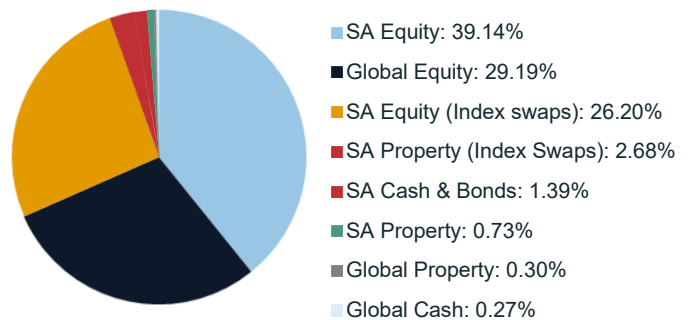
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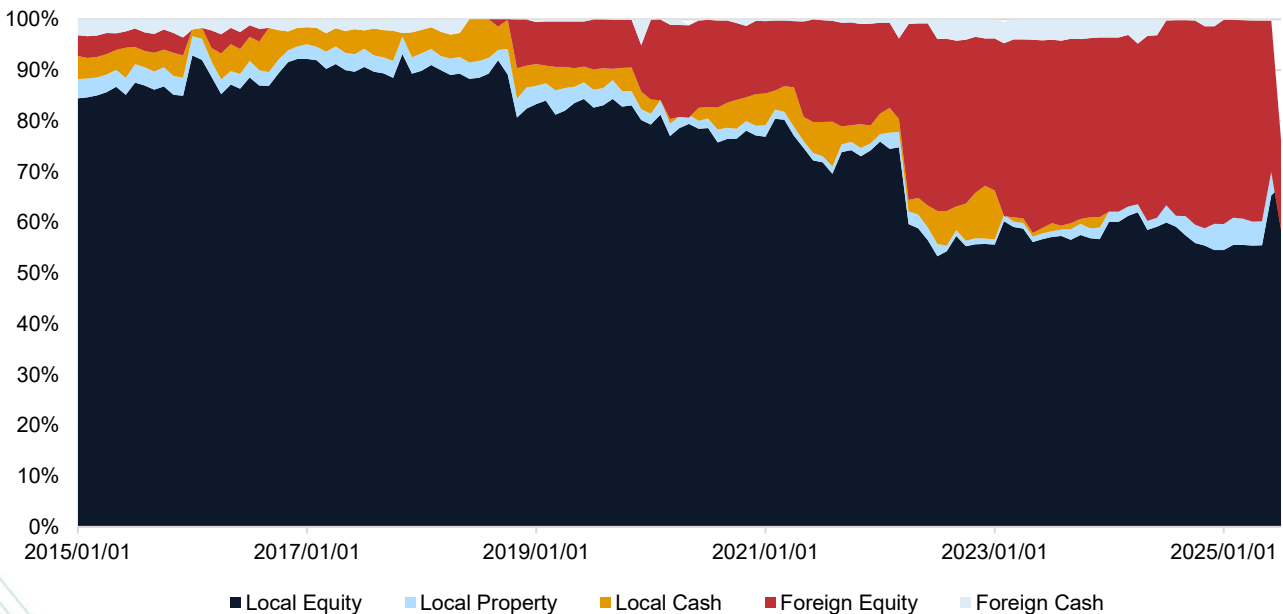
Top 10 Exposure

Standard Bank	3.63%
Capitec	3.07%
Naspers Ltd	2.98%
Harmony Gold	2.98%
Clicks	2.33%
Prosus NV	2.24%
Sanlam Ltd	2.02%
FirstRand	1.93%
Mr Price	1.90%
Nepi Rockcastle	1.88%

Asset Allocation



Asset Allocation Over Time



APS Ci Global Flexible Feeder Fund

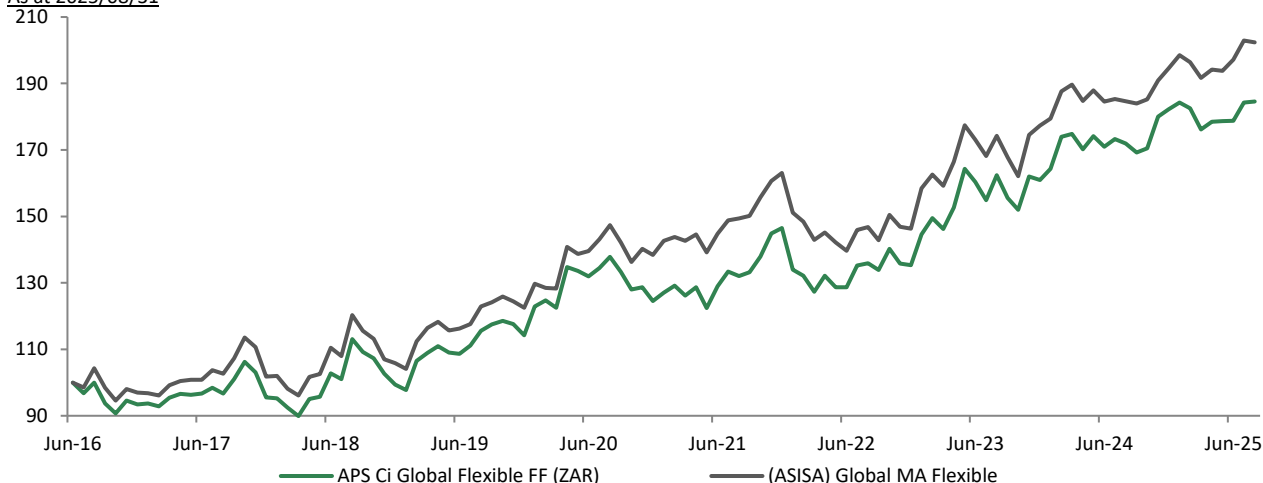
Trailing Returns

As at 2025/08/31

	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years
APS Ci Global Flexible FF B	1.28	7.34	10.73	6.02
(ASISA) Global MA Flexible	5.07	10.69	11.95	6.94

Cumulative Portfolio Performance

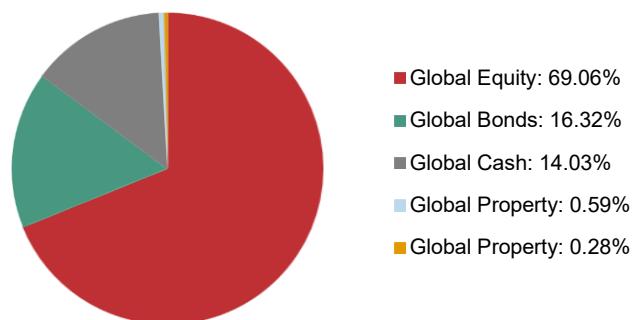
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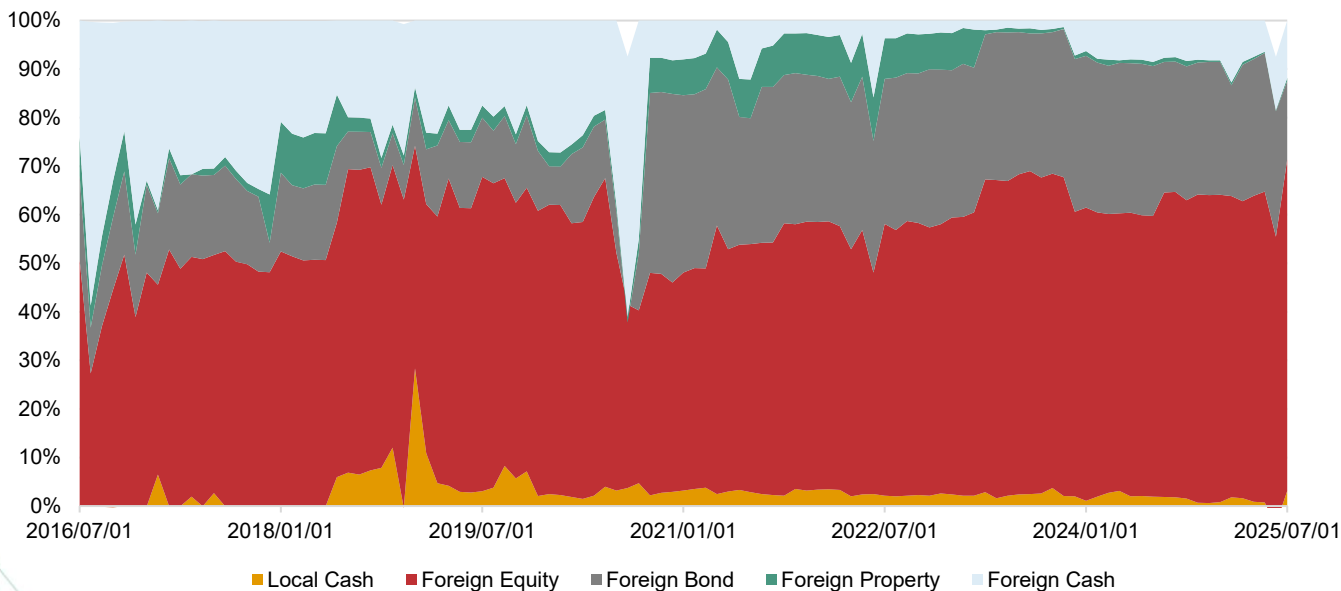
Top 10 Exposure

Microsoft	2.01%
Apple	1.81%
NVIDIA Corporation	1.49%
Visa	1.28%
O'Reilly Automotive Inc	1.15%
Alphabet Inc	1.13%
Church & Dwight Co., Inc.	1.12%
Stryker Corporation	1.10%
Johnson & Johnson	1.06%
Novo Nordisk B	1.04%

Asset Allocation



Asset Allocation Over Time



APS Global Flexible Fund (USD):

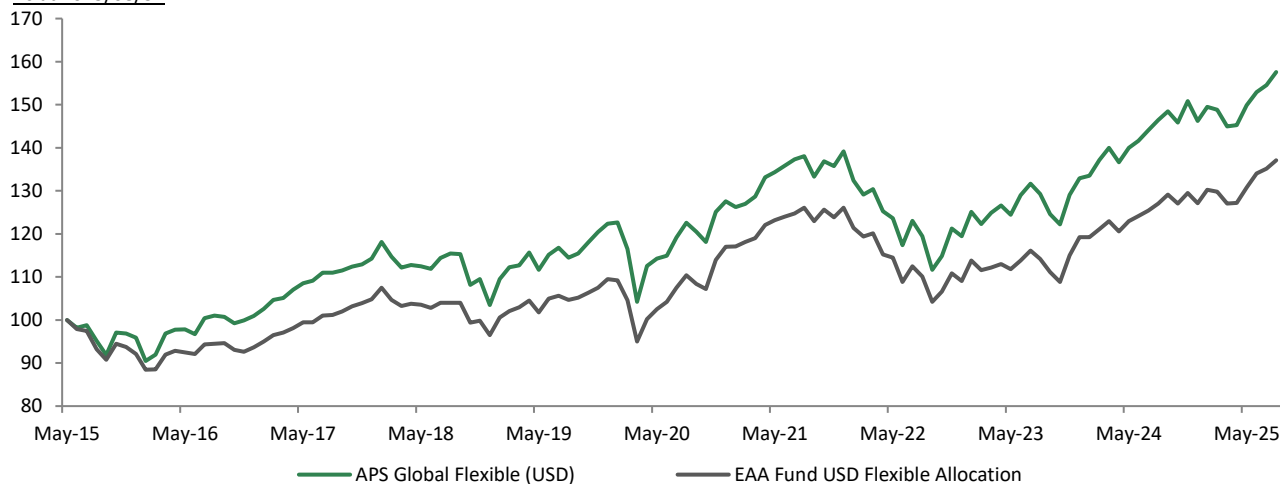
Trailing Returns

As at 2025/08/31

	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years
APS Glb Flex Fd A USD Acc	7.77	7.59	9.68	5.15
EAA Fund USD Flexible Allocation	7.91	7.94	7.91	4.61

Cumulative Portfolio Performance

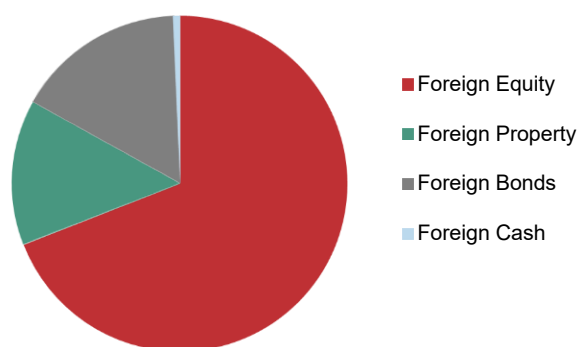
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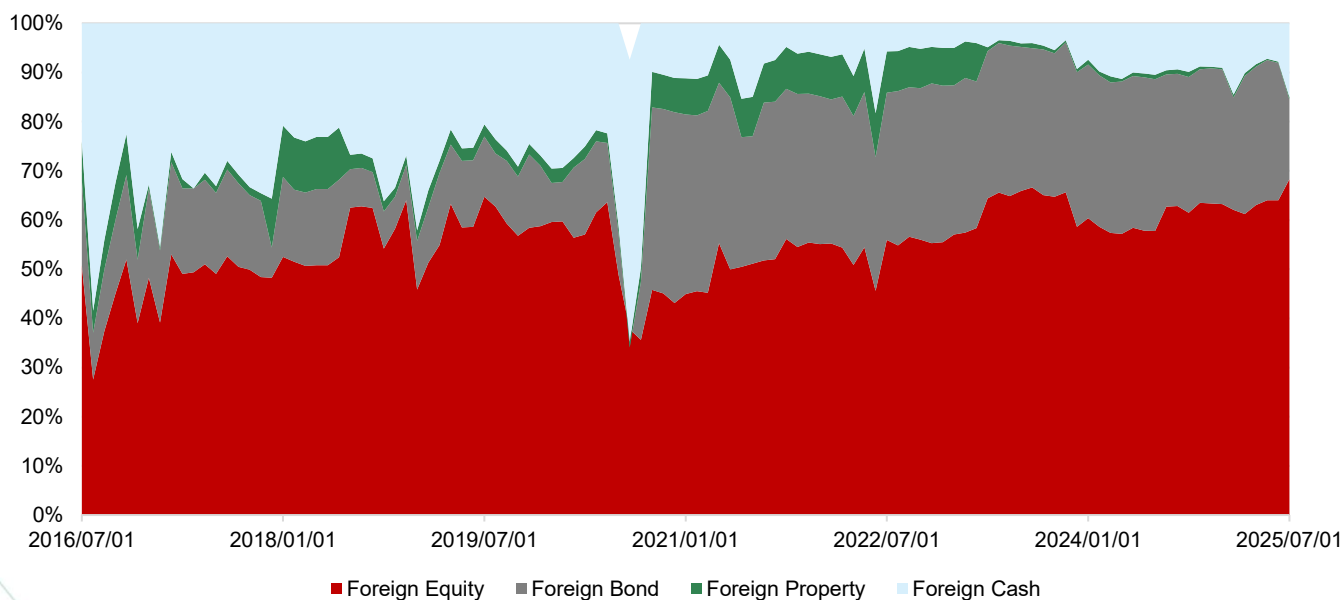
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Stryker Corporation	1.10%
Johnson & Johnson	1.06%
Novo Nordisk B	1.04%

Asset Allocation



Asset Allocation Over Time



AUGUST 2025 IN REVIEW

Central banks in major economies—including the United States, Eurozone, and Japan—held interest rates steady, signaling a pause in tightening cycles. Inflation continued to ease, with consumer price indices trending below prior peaks, allowing policymakers to focus on growth without stoking price pressures.



During August global employment remained robust, with unemployment rates near historic lows in several regions. Wage growth was moderate, balancing inflation concerns with sustained labour demand.

Jerome Powell's August 2025 Jackson Hole speech—his final as chairperson of the US Federal Reserve—was a nuanced reflection on the evolving U.S. economic landscape and the Fed's policy stance. He signalled a shift away from the 2020-era Flexible Average Inflation Targeting (FAIT). The Fed is now embracing a more flexible inflation goal and a qualitative approach to assessing maximum employment. Following his speech the market seemed to price for an interest rate cut being announced at the Federal Open Market Committee meeting in September.

In Europe macro-economic news was mixed. GDP rose marginally, indicating a fragile recovery. In addition to this retail trade sales increased, suggesting resilient consumer demand despite broader economic uncertainty. Industrial production and construction output unfortunately declined across most EU states. Unemployment rate remained unchanged overall, but the silver lining is that youth unemployment decreased in the euro area.

The South African Reserve Bank (SARB) revised its 2025 GDP growth forecast down to 1.0% (from 1.2%). Weak external demand and domestic investment constraints contributed to the downgrade. There was some good news though as inflation remained below the 4.5% midpoint target. The Reserve Bank, however, flagged potential upside risks due to electricity price adjustments. Despite disinflation, the governor signalled limited room for rate cuts, citing currency volatility and U.S. policy spillovers.

China reaffirmed its 5% GDP growth target despite mounting headwinds. In this pursuit Beijing announced a record-high fiscal deficit (4% of GDP) and launched ¥4.4 trillion (over USD 600 billion) in local government bonds for infrastructure and housing. In addition they also issued ¥1.3 trillion (USD 180 billion) in ultralong treasury bonds for national security and innovation, as well as ¥500 billion (USD 70 billion) in sovereign bonds to recapitalize state-owned banks.

Immigration remains a sensitive matter in Europe and the United Kingdom. The UK signed a new bilateral agreement with Iraq to expedite the return of failed asylum seekers. This is part of a broader strategy to curb Channel crossings, which surged to over 27 000 attempts year-to-date. This is up from 18 000 in the same period last year. In the rest of Europe many countries are struggling with the integration of migrating people from the Middle East, Eastern Europe and North Africa. Immigration policy is likely to be central to the next general elections in Western Europe and the United Kingdom. d harsher tariffs that could have cost Europe millions of jobs.

AUGUST 2025 IN REVIEW



Market performance

Global equity markets extended their gains in August 2025, supported by resilient corporate earnings, firm commodity prices, and growing expectations of monetary easing in the United States. The MSCI All Country World Index (ACWI) rose 2.6%, marking its fifth consecutive monthly advance and reflecting strength across both developed and emerging markets.

The S&P 500 gained 2.0%, buoyed by strong Q2 earnings and dovish Fed signals following soft labour market data. The NASDAQ advanced 2.2%, with standout performances from Intel (+21%), Applivin (+21%), and IDEXX Laboratories (+21%). Small-cap stocks rebounded sharply, with the Russell 2000 up 7.0%, its best monthly performance since late 2024. traded flat, ending the month around R17.75/USD, supported by investor optimism and SARB's dovish stance.

In Europe, the EUROSTOXX 50 edged up 0.6%, as investors looked past political noise and focused on the ECB's steady policy stance. The UK's FTSE 100 rose 0.6%,

underpinned by commodity-linked sectors and upward earnings revisions in energy and materials. Japan's Nikkei 225 surged 4.0%, lifted by corporate reform momentum and continued support from US trade agreements.

China's Shanghai Composite jumped 8.0%, driven by robust export data and optimism around easing trade tensions. South Africa's JSE All Share Index gained 3.5%, marking its sixth consecutive monthly rise. Gold miners led the charge (+4.8%), while listed property (+2.8%) and financials (+1.1%) also contributed. Local bonds added 0.7%, as easing inflation and lower inflation targeting supported sentiment.

Gold rose 4.8% to USD3 429/oz, breaking above the USD3 500 threshold amid rising expectations of a Fed rate cut. Brent crude oil declined 6.0% to USD67.48/barrel, reversing July's gains due to demand concerns. Platinum rose 5.8%, continuing its strong run and closing the month at USD1 409/oz, supported by supply constraints and green energy demand.

MARKET INDICES ¹	31 August 2025		
(All returns in Rand except where otherwise indicated)	3 months	12 months	5 years ²
SA equities (JSE All Share Index)	8.4%	25.8%	17.2%
SA property (S&P SA REIT Index)	6.6%	21.8%	21.1%
SA bonds (SA All Bond Index)	5.8%	15.1%	11.3%
SA cash (STeFI)	1.9%	7.9%	6.4%
Global developed equities (MSCI World Index)	6.3%	15.8%	14.4%
Emerging market equities (MSCI Emerging Markets Index)	7.7%	17.3%	6.6%
Global bonds (Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate)	-0.2%	3.1%	-0.9%
Rand/dollar ³	-2.0%	-0.3%	0.9%
Rand/sterling	-1.8%	2.4%	1.1%
Rand/euro	1.0%	5.4%	0.4%
Gold Price (USD)	5.6%	39.3%	12.0%
Oil Price (Brent Crude, USD)	6.6%	-13.6%	8.5%

1. Source: Factset
2. All performance figures are annualised
3. A negative number means fewer rands are being paid per US dollar, so it implies a strengthening of the rand.

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