## Fund description and summary of investment policy

The Fund invests primarily in shares listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE). The Fund can invest a maximum of 45% offshore. The Fund invests the bulk of its foreign allowance in equity funds managed by Orbis Investment Management Limited, our offshore investment partner. The Fund is typically fully invested in shares. Returns are likely to be volatile, especially over short- and medium-term periods.

ASISA unit trust category: South African - Equity - General

## Fund objective and benchmark

The Fund aims to create long-term wealth for investors. It aims to outperform the average return of South African General Equity Funds over the long term, without taking on greater risk of loss. To pursue its objective the Fund's portfolio may differ materially from those of its peers. This will result in the Fund underperforming its benchmark materially at times. The Fund aims to compensate for these periods of underperformance by delivering outperformance over the long term. The Fund's benchmark is the market value-weighted average return of funds in the South African – Equity – General category (excluding Allan Gray funds).

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

We seek to buy shares offering the best relative value while maintaining a diversified portfolio. We thoroughly research companies to assess their intrinsic value from a long-term perspective. This long-term perspective enables us to buy shares from sellers who over-react to short-term difficulties or undervalue long-term potential. We invest in a selection of shares across all sectors of the stock market, and across the range of large, mid and smaller cap shares.

#### Suitable for those investors who

- Seek exposure to listed equities to provide long-term capital growth
- Are comfortable with stock market fluctuation, i.e. short- to medium-term volatility
- Are prepared to accept the risk of capital loss
- Typically have an investment horizon of more than five years
- Wish to use the Fund as an equity 'building block' in a diversified multi-asset class portfolio

## Fund information on 31 March 2025

Fund size	R47.6bn
Number of units	46 612 242
Price (net asset value per unit)	R622.26
Class	Α

- The market value-weighted average return of funds in the South African Equity General category, excluding Allan Gray funds. (Effective 1 October 2024, this category started excluding funds that can only invest in South African equities.) Source: Morningstar, performance as calculated by Allan Gray as at 31 March 2025. From inception to 28 February 2015 the benchmark was the FTSE/JSE All Share Index including income. Source: IRESS.
- CPI inflation has been calculated based on the most recent rebased values from Stats SA, reflecting the data as at 28 February 2025 (source: IRESS).
- Maximum percentage decline over any period. The maximum drawdown occurred from 3 September 2018 to 23 March 2020 and maximum benchmark drawdown occurred from 22 May 2008 to 20 November 2008. 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 30 September 1999 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 1998)	9693.4	3129.3	303.2
Annualised:			
Since inception (1 October 1998)	18.9	14.0	5.4
Latest 10 years	8.2	6.9	5.0
Latest 5 years	18.6	18.4	4.8
Latest 3 years	11.7	8.6	5.2
Latest 2 years	12.7	11.1	4.4
Latest 1 year	13.0	20.2	3.2
Year-to-date (not annualised)	3.7	2.0	1.3
Risk measures (since inception)			
Maximum drawdown <sup>3</sup>	-37.0	-45.4	n/a
Percentage positive months <sup>4</sup>	66.0	60.1	n/a
Annualised monthly volatility <sup>5</sup>	14.9	16.2	n/a
Highest annual return <sup>6</sup>	125.8	73.0	n/a
Lowest annual return <sup>6</sup>	-24.3	-37.6	n/a

Fund managers: Duncan Artus, Jithen Pillay, Rory Kutisker-Jacobson, Tim Acker (Most foreign assets are invested in Orbis funds) **Inception date:** 1 October 1998

## 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 equity fund. 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

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 2024	31 Dec 2024
Cents per unit	583.3035	635.7956

## 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 for the day to that of the benchmark.

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

For each annualised percentage point above or below the benchmark we add or deduct 0.2%. The maximum fee is uncapped and if the fee would have been negative. 0% will be charged for the day and the negative fee will be carried forward to reduce the next day's fee (and all subsequent days until the underperformance is recovered).

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 2025 (SA and Foreign) (updated quarterly)<sup>7</sup>

Company	% of portfolio
Naspers & Prosus	5.3
AB InBev	5.3
British American Tobacco	5.2
Standard Bank	3.2
AngloGold Ashanti	2.5
The Walt Disney Company	2.5
Remgro	2.2
Woolworths	2.2
Nedbank	2.2
Mondi	2.0
Total (%)	32.6

- 7. Underlying holdings of foreign funds are included on a look-through basis.
- 8. Includes listed property.
- 9. FTSE/JSE All Share Index.

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

TER and transaction costs breakdown for the 1- and 3-year period ending 31 March 2025	1yr %	3yr %
Total expense ratio	0.56	1.82
Fee for benchmark performance	1.02	1.05
Performance fees	-0.50	0.57
Other costs excluding transaction costs	0.04	0.04
VAT	0.00	0.16
Transaction costs (including VAT)	0.10	0.08
Total investment charge	0.66	1.90

## Sector allocation on 31 March 2025 (updated quarterly)<sup>7</sup>

Sector	% of equities8	% of ALSI <sup>9</sup>
Financials	23.0	28.6
Consumer staples	18.8	11.6
Basic materials	13.9	22.2
Consumer discretionary	13.3	7.0
Industrials	11.2	3.1
Technology	9.5	15.4
Healthcare	3.9	1.5
Energy	3.3	0.7
Telecommunications	1.4	5.0
Real estate	1.4	4.7
Utilities	0.4	0.0
Total (%)	100.0	100.0

### Asset allocation on 31 March 20257

Asset class	Total	South Africa	Foreign
Net equities	94.4	53.5	40.9
Hedged equities	0.0	0.0	0.0
Property	1.3	0.3	1.0
Commodity-linked	0.4	0.4	0.0
Bonds	0.2	0.0	0.2
Money market and cash <sup>10</sup>	3.7	2.6	1.1
Total (%)	100.0	56.8	43.211

10. Including currency hedges.

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

<sup>11.</sup> 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.

**Fund managers:** Duncan Artus, Jithen Pillay, Rory Kutisker–Jacobson, Tim Acker (Most foreign assets are invested in Orbis funds) **Inception date:** 1 October 1998

**Allan Gray Equity Fund** 

31 March 2025

2024 was a very strong year for local equities, and this positive momentum carried through into the first quarter of 2025. The FTSE/JSE All Share Index generated a return of 13% for the 2024 calendar year and 6% for the latest quarter. Global equity markets also performed well in 2024, although they started 2025 on a weaker note. The MSCI World Index finished up 19% in US dollars in 2024 but retracted 2% in the first quarter of 2025.

The Fund returned 3.7% for the quarter, outperforming its benchmark by 1.7%. Performance was driven by some of the larger multinational "rand-hedge" shares, such as AB InBev and British American Tobacco. This is a reversal of one of the dominant trends of 2024: Following the national elections and the formation of the government of national unity (GNU) in June 2024, domestically focused "SA Inc" shares strongly outperformed rand-hedge shares. In response, the Fund reduced its exposure to SA Inc names in the second half of 2024 and increased holdings in rand hedges like AB InBev. Favouring rand-hedge shares detracted from performance last year but has supported performance in the most recent quarter.

The formation of the GNU in June 2024 sparked a wave of optimism about South Africa's future, both locally and abroad. Some of this was driven by hopes of political reform and economic recovery, but it also reflected relative appeal – many emerging markets were in deeper turmoil, making South Africa look comparatively stable. While we acknowledge encouraging signs, such as improvements at Eskom, our research suggests that broader progress has been limited. State-owned enterprises continue to face deep structural issues, and the business environment remains difficult. Recent financial results from consumer-focused companies reinforce this view – many continue to report subdued earnings as household spending continues to come under pressure.

This illustrates the danger of paying a premium for optimism. When expectations shift quickly, share prices can get ahead of underlying fundamentals. Our approach, as always, is bottom-up focused, favouring companies priced well below their intrinsic value, across sectors and regions. There are certainly still areas of value among SA Inc stocks, but some valuations are too high and do not reflect the economic and political risks. The recent difficulty around passing a coalition budget and ongoing public tension between the South African government and the United States are good reminders of these risks. There is value in having a diversified portfolio containing both SA Inc and rand-hedge stocks. Fortunately, there are attractively priced shares available in both categories.

Stock selection in the offshore portion of the portfolio contributed to relative performance in the quarter. We remain underweight the US market and mega-cap tech – areas that have driven global market returns for several years but now appear increasingly crowded and expensive. There have been early signs of this trend shifting. For instance, European equities, which have long been out of favour, have recently begun to attract renewed interest. Emerging markets, too, outperformed the MSCI World Index this quarter. Japan, often overlooked in global portfolios, offers compelling opportunities for uncorrelated returns in a concentrated global market. The offshore portion of the Fund continues to look very different from the world index and many of our competitors, something we believe will benefit long-term returns.

During the quarter, the Fund purchased AB InBev and AngloGold Ashanti, and sold British American Tobacco and Sibanye-Stillwater.

Commentary contributed by Tim Acker

Fund manager quarterly commentary as at 31 March 2025 **Fund managers:** Duncan Artus, Jithen Pillay, Rory Kutisker–Jacobson, Tim Acker (Most foreign assets are invested in Orbis funds) **Inception date:** 1 October 1998

## **Allan Gray Equity Fund**

31 March 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 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 Gray. For more information about our annual management fees, refer to the <u>frequently asked questions</u>, 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).

# FTSE/JSE All Share Index, FTSE/JSE Financials Index, FTSE/JSE Capped Shareholder Weighted All Share Index and FTSE/JSE Mid Cap Index

The FTSE/JSE All Share Index, FTSE/JSE Financials Index, FTSE/JSE Capped Shareholder Weighted All Share Index and FTSE/JSE Mid Cap Index are calculated by FTSE International Limited ("FTSE") in conjunction with the JSE Limited ("JSE") in accordance with standard criteria. The FTSE/JSE All Share Index, FTSE/JSE Financials Index, FTSE/JSE Capped Shareholder Weighted All Share Index and FTSE/JSE Mid Cap 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 Financials Index, FTSE/ JSE Capped Shareholder Weighted All Share Index and FTSE/JSE Mid Cap Index vests in FTSE and the JSE jointly. All their rights are reserved.

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#### MSCI Index

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# **Important information** for investors

#### Need more information?

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