



Sanlam Corporate: Investments

Sanlam Wealth Creation Lifestage Strategy  
Investment Report  
**Quarter 2 2023**

Insurance

Financial Planning

Retirement

Investments

Wealth

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# Overview

The **Sanlam Wealth Creation Portfolio** which is the **Accumulation Phase Portfolio** for this strategy aims to deliver **superior real returns** over the long term. This **balanced portfolio** is managed in a multi manage basis and includes **foreign exposure**. Each manager has been selected based on **rigorous quantitative and qualitative analysis**. The portfolio construction includes both **domestic balanced mandates, passive exposure** as well as **specialist mandates**.

A **lifestage strategy** aims to meet each member's savings requirement by working towards a target date, which would be the Normal Retirement Age or the Planned Retirement Age (if different).





In the Lifestage approach, a member's savings are initially invested in a portfolio that emphasizes long-term capital growth with some tolerance for short-term market volatility.

As retirement approaches, this target date strategy invests in an investment portfolio matching the member's post-retirement needs or plans, but in the years prior to this greater emphasis is placed on achieving capital growth.

## Sanlam Wealth Creation Lifestage Strategy



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### Accumulation phase

All members with **more than 6 years** from Retirement Age

#### GROWTH

The Accumulation Phase Portfolio aims to provide market-related capital growth to members who need to grow their retirement savings and have more than six years from retirement.

Sanlam Wealth Creation Portfolio

While each lifestage strategy utilises a different accumulation phase portfolio, all of the Trustee-approved lifestage strategies utilises the Sanlam Capital Protection Portfolio in the preservation phase.

The phasing from the accumulation phase portfolio to the preservation phase portfolio is calculated and implemented monthly based on members' actual age, with no cost to the member. The first phasing switch disinvests 1/50th of exposure in the accumulation phase portfolio and re-invests the proceeds in the preservation phase portfolio. The second monthly phasing switches a further portion of the exposure in the accumulation phase portfolio and invests the proceeds in the preservation phase portfolio.

The third monthly phasing switches a similar portion of the exposure in accumulation phase portfolio and invests the proceeds in the preservation phase portfolio. The monthly phasing switches are repeated until, after 50 switches, the exposure to the accumulation phase portfolio is zero and the member is fully invested in the preservation phase portfolio 22 months prior to retirement.

The Fund's communication strategy makes provision for the distribution of communication to members 7 years, 6.5 years and 1 year before retirement date.



### Systematic automated monthly transition

All members with less than **6 years but more than 22 months** from Retirement Age

#### 50 MONTHLY

Transition from the accumulation phase to the preservation phase takes place by means of **50 monthly switches**



### Preservation phase

All members with **22 months and less remaining** from Retirement Age

#### PROTECTION

A preservation phase portfolio protects a member against the specific risks inherent in the purchase of an annuity

#### Sanlam Capital Protection Portfolio

This portfolio was selected as the preservation strategy given its objective to protect the invested capital by guaranteeing the net contributions invested.

# solution

# Investment Portfolios

offered in  
the Sanlam  
Wealth Creation  
Lifestage Strategy



## Sanlam Wealth Creation

### *Lifestage*

The portfolio's objective is to deliver superior real returns over the long term. This balanced portfolio is managed in a multi-manager basis and includes international exposure.

Each manager has been selected on the basis of rigorous quantitative and qualitative analysis. The underlying managers of the portfolio have been selected, mandated, monitored and reviewed by a Joint Investment Committee.





## Lifestage Preservation Portfolio

### Sanlam Capital Protection Portfolio

This portfolio was selected as the preservation strategy given its objective to protect the invested capital by guaranteeing the net contributions invested.

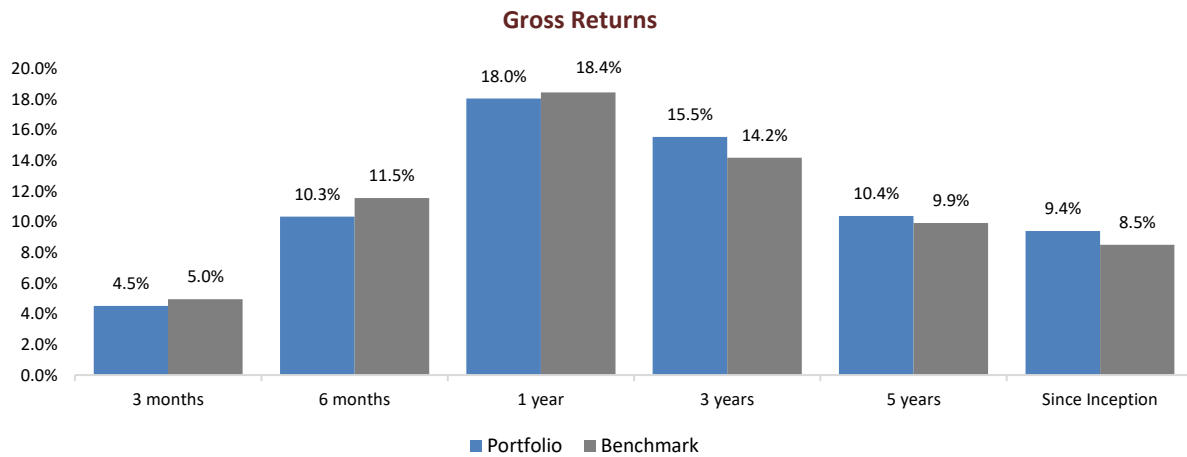
The portfolio invests in the [Sanlam Stable Bonus Portfolio](#). The Stable Bonus Portfolio provides investors with exposure to the financial markets, which provides investors with exposure to equity markets, but also protects them against adverse market movements. This is achieved by smoothing the returns over time and guaranteeing the net contributions invested together with the vested bonuses in case of resignation, retirement, death, retrenchment or disability..

Non-vested bonuses are also declared over and above the vested bonuses. These can be removed in very extreme circumstances though this has never yet occurred since the portfolio's commencement in 1986.

The underlying portfolio has a diversified exposure to domestic equity, bonds, property and alternative investments as well as international assets. The portfolio has a conservative risk profile.

# Sanlam Wealth Creation Lifestage

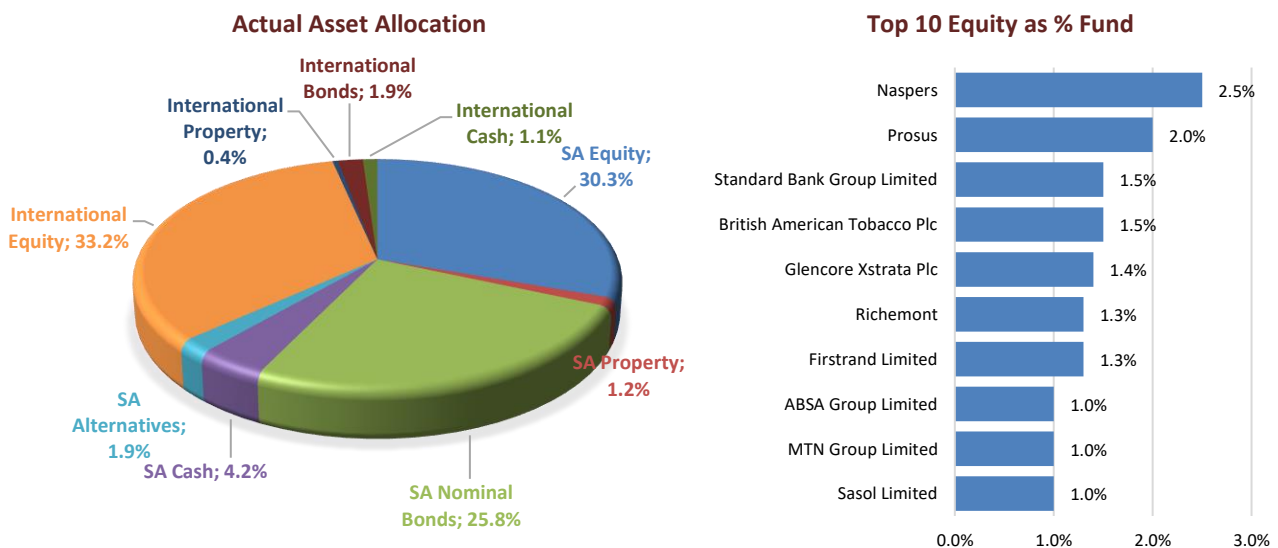
## Sanlam Wealth Creation Portfolio



For the quarter and year ended 30 June 2023, the Sanlam Wealth Creation Portfolio generated returns of 4.5% and 18.0% respectively. In comparison, its building block benchmark returned 5.0% and 18.4% for the same periods.

For the quarter, both asset allocation and manager selection detracted from overall performance. Within asset allocation, SA Equity and International Cash added value. SA Bonds were neutral, while domestic large managers, SA Cash, International Equity, and International Bonds, detracted from performance. On the manager selection side, SA Cash was neutral, while SA Equity, SA Bonds, International Equity, and International Cash, all detracted from performance. Domestic large managers contributed to overall performance.

\*Returns prior to 1 August 2022 are reflective of the Sanlam Wealth Creation portfolio structured on the AlexForbes life license



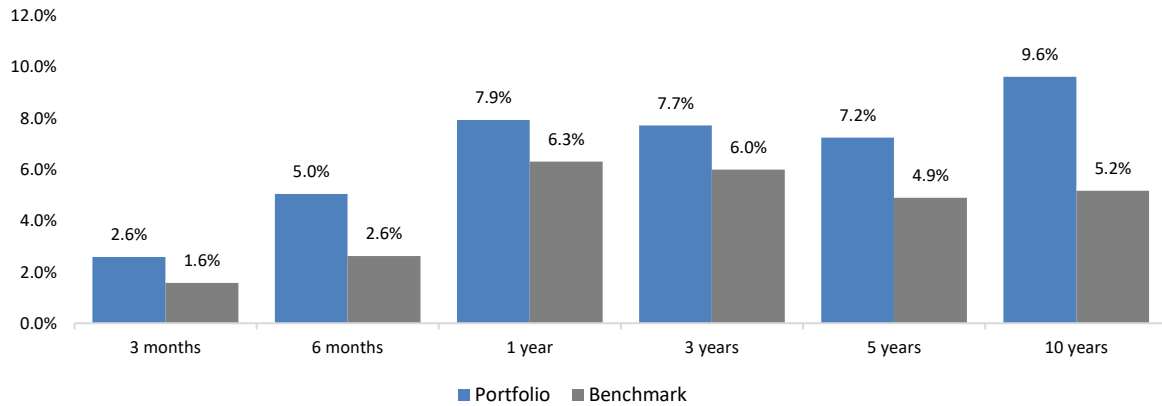
Looking at the current composition of the portfolio, the overweight positions are in SA Equity, SA Nominal Bonds, SA ILBs and International Cash. The portfolio was neutral on SA Property and underweight in all other asset classes.



# Preservation phase portfolio

## Sanlam Capital Protection Portfolio

Gross Bonuses

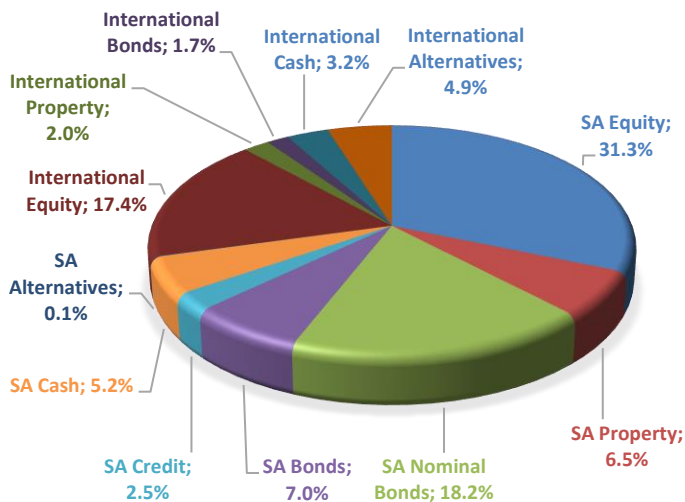


The preservation phase of the Lifestage Strategies continues to deliver stable, dependable positive returns for investors. Over the second quarter of 2023, the Sanlam Capital Protection Portfolio gave investors a return of 2.6% and a return of 7.9% for the year. Over the long term, the portfolio also posted strong inflation beating returns.

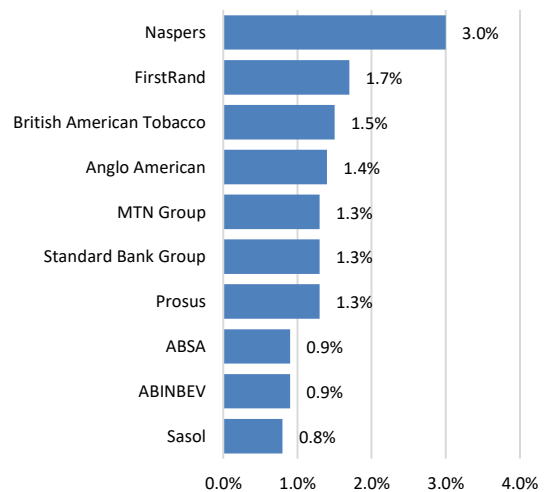
This portfolio is especially important for members closer to retirement, as it offers protection over their accumulated capital.

\*Inflation is lagged by one month

Actual Asset Allocation



Top 10 Equity as % Fund



Looking at the current composition of the portfolio, the overweight positions are SA Alternatives, International Equity, SA ILBs and International Cash. The portfolio is neutral in SA Nominal Bonds and underweight in all the other asset classes.



# Performance summary

30 June 2023	3 months	6 months	1 year	3 years	5 years	7 years
<b>Accumulation Phase</b>						
<b>Sanlam Wealth Creation</b>						
<b>Sanlam Wealth Creation Portfolio*</b>	4.5%	10.3%	18.0%	15.5%	10.4%	9.4%
<b>Benchmark</b>	5.0%	11.5%	18.4%	14.2%	9.9%	8.5%
<b>Preservation Phase</b>						
<b>Capital Protection Portfolio**</b>	2.6%	5.0%	7.9%	7.7%	7.2%	7.5%
<b>CPI***</b>	1.6%	2.6%	6.3%	6.0%	4.9%	4.9%

\*Returns prior to 1 August 2022 are reflective of the Sanlam Wealth Creation portfolio structured on the AlexForbes life license

\*\* The Capital Protection Portfolio does not have an explicit benchmark.

\*\*\*CPI figures are calculated to end of May 2023

# Macroeconomic commentary



## Global Equities

Global equities rallied strongly in the second quarter of the year, supported by positive economic factors such as upward revisions to US Q1 GDP growth, a surge in consumer confidence, and robust services sector performance. For the quarter ended 30 June 2023, the MSCI All Country World Index gained 13.1% in rand terms, outperforming the emerging markets as measured by the MSCI Emerging Markets Equities which returned 9.3% in rand terms. The South African equities underperformed both developed and emerging markets due to a 6.1=5% depreciation in the rand/US dollar exchange rate. The FTSE/JSE All Share Index gained a modest 0.7% in rands, with resources being the major drag on performance (-6.1%). Precious metals counters experienced significant declines, while consumer discretionary and financial stocks showed positive momentum. However, the sector derated over the quarter, and the price-to-book ratio declined. The positive market mood was driven by the suspension of the US debt ceiling, better-than-expected retail -

## Highlights

### Global

- ▶ US Q1 GDP revised higher to 2% on robust consumption expenditure
- ▶ Eurozone enters technical recession following downward revision to Q1 GDP
- ▶ China's State Council announces financial support for property developers, tax exemptions on electric EVs and tax breaks for high-end manufacturers
- ▶ US Democrats and Republicans reach agreement on two-year debt limit suspension
- ▶ US Fed pauses on rate hikes; ECB raises rate 25 basis points and the BOE 50 basis points
- ▶ China imposes export restrictions on semiconductor manufacturing metals

### Local

- ▶ SA avoids technical recession, expanding 0.4% q/q in Q1
- ▶ SA bonds rebound as threat of secondary sanctions subsides
- ▶ SARB leading economic indicator declines further, signaling slower growth
- ▶ ABSA and S&P Global PMIs still in contractionary territory

sales, and the US Fed's decision to pause raising interest rates. Inflation measures were favorable. Additionally, China's stimulus measures aimed at countering deflation provided support. Despite the upbeat data, global growth momentum slowed raising concerns about a potential recession. Forward earnings estimates declined, and valuations became stretched, warranting caution for risk assets. The impact of export controls on semiconductor equipment between major economies and rising interest rates poses risks to equity markets.

## Global Bonds

In the second quarter, concerns about a potential US debt default and hawkish actions by central banks, including the US Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank (ECB), and the Bank of England (BOE), led to higher bond yields. The Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index saw its yield increase to 3.84% from 3.54%. Global bonds returned 4.8% in rands. However, corporate bonds outperformed sovereign bonds, and high-yield credit performed well. .

## Global Listed Property

In the second quarter, the global listed property sector faced challenges due to the rise in global bond yields. The FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Developed Dividend+ returned a modest 0.5% in US dollars and 6.3% in rands. Concerns about rising office vacancies and retailer bankruptcies weighed on the sector throughout the quarter. Despite attractive valuations, the sector derated, and the price-to-book ratio declined to 1.21X from 1.22X, still below the historical mean of 1.46X. Another risk is the potential for stranded assets resulting from the transition to a green economy, as 'greenifying' old buildings could be costly and impact net asset value.



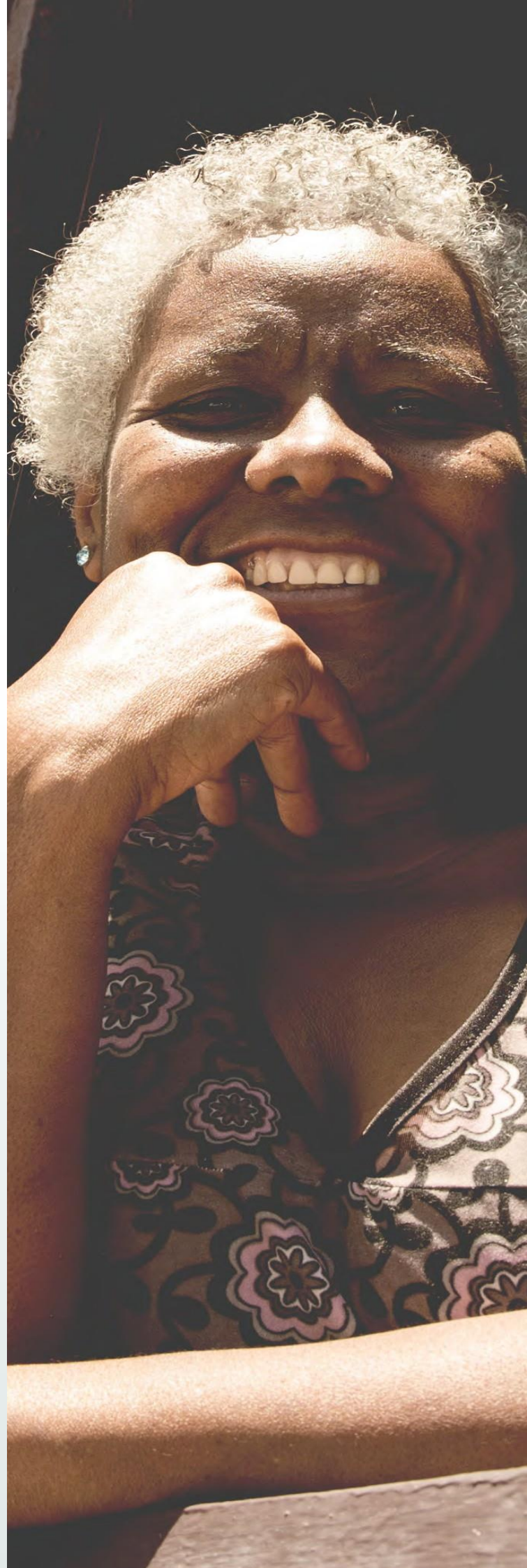
## Local economics

### Local Equities

In the second quarter, South African equities underperformed both developed and emerging markets due to a 6.1% depreciation in the rand/US dollar exchange rate. The FTSE/JSE All Share Index gained a modest 0.7% in rands but declined by -5.5% in US dollars, with resources sector being the major drag on performance. Precious metals counters experienced significant declines, while consumer discretionary and financial stocks showed positive momentum. However, the sector derated over the quarter, and the price-to-book ratio declined. The forward price-to-earnings ratio for the ALSI and the MSCI SA Index increased, but the earnings growth outlook is expected to soften, especially for large cap rand hedge counters. The valuation gap between trailing earnings and market price may narrow due to rand appreciation, reducing investor interest in domestic equities. The SA Inc complex is highly dependent on domestic economic growth, which is expected to remain flat or soften over the coming year.

### Local Bonds

In the second quarter, South African bonds were the worst-performing asset class, affected by escalating political tensions between SA and the US over its non-aligned stance with Russia. A thawing in the standoff in June, following a proposed change in venue for the upcoming BRICs summit to China, saw bond yields decline, partially reversing May's losses. However, political risks resurfaced in July, leading to a repricing of risks and higher bond yields. Despite a disinflationary trend, risks to the inflation outlook remain, including a weaker rand and inflationary effects from load shedding. The budget deficit is tracking higher than expected, impacting the fiscal outlook.





## Local Listed Property

The domestic listed property asset class faced challenges in the second quarter, as the increase in bond yields functioned as a headwind. Returns were subdued at 0.7% in rands and -5.5% in US dollars. Despite a slight decline in dividends per share, the property sector became more expensive compared to the 10-year bond, with the property-to-bond yield ratio declining below the long-term mean. Several factors, such as potential increases in commercial rates and taxes, the risk of stranded assets in central business districts, higher stages of load shedding, and possible further rate hikes, are expected to constrain rental escalations and resets in the sector over the coming year. Due to return expectations lagging other asset classes, an underweight position is retained in listed property. Some of the biggest gainers in the sector included Sirius Real Estate, Fortress B, and Fortress A, while the losers included Equites Equity Fund, Emira, and Growthpoint.

## Summary

Over the second quarter, economic surprises extended growth momentum and supported the risk-on trade, pushing out the anticipated recession further in time. Global equities outperformed defensive assets, driven by positive economic indicators and better-than-expected GDP growth in the US and China. Emerging market returns lagged due to the trade war's impact on the Hang Seng Index. South African assets underperformed due to the sharp depreciation of the rand, influenced by the diplomatic standoff with the US over its stance on Russia. Developed market central bankers are nearing the peak of their interest rate cycles, with inflation expected to decline, leading to optimism in markets. A soft landing for the global economy is anticipated, with the US recession now likely only in 2024, as higher interest rates eventually reduce consumption expenditure.

# Market performance summary (in ZAR) to 30 June 2023

		3 months	6 months	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years
Local	Equities (All Share Index)	0.7%	5.9%	19.6%	16.1%	9.6%	10.3%
	Equities (Capped SWIX)	1.2%	3.6%	13.5%	15.7%	6.9%	8.5%
	Property	0.7%	-4.4%	10.0%	11.3%	-3.5%	1.5%
	Nominal Bonds	-1.5%	1.8%	8.2%	7.6%	7.4%	7.4%
	Inflation Linked Bonds	-0.8%	0.0%	1.1%	8.7%	5.3%	5.3%
	Cash	1.9%	3.7%	6.8%	5.0%	5.8%	6.3%
International	Equities (MSCI ACWI)	13.1%	26.5%	34.4%	14.1%	15.3%	16.0%
	Equities (MSCI EM)	9.3%	18.5%	19.5%	5.9%	8.0%	10.4%
	Bonds	4.8%	12.6%	13.8%	-2.3%	5.5%	6.9%
	Property	6.3%	11.4%	8.7%	6.1%	6.4%	10.0%
	Rand vs US Dollar	6.5%	11.0%	15.3%	2.8%	6.6%	6.6%
Equity Sector	Financials	5.3%	5.0%	13.6%	19.7%	3.5%	7.5%
	Resources	-6.1%	-10.5%	3.0%	13.9%	15.0%	9.2%
	Industrials	3.4%	17.5%	34.2%	14.5%	8.5%	10.2%
Size	Small Cap	0.5%	1.3%	10.8%	29.8%	8.5%	9.0%
	Medium Cap	-0.2%	-1.2%	7.5%	14.2%	5.3%	6.8%
	Large Cap	0.9%	7.2%	22.2%	16.3%	10.3%	10.8%

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