

PRESCIENT CORE EQUITY FUND (A2)

MINIMUM DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT & GENERAL INVESTOR REPORT

INVESTMENT AND RETURN OBJECTIVE

The Fund aims to deliver returns close to the FTSE/JSE Africa Shareholder Weighted Total Return Index at low cost. Although the Fund is structured similarly to the SWIX, it can out / underperform the SWIX by small amounts over time.

INVESTMENT PROCESS

The Fund follows an investment policy which firstly endeavours to follow the composition of the SWIX closely and secondly seeks enhancement opportunities to secure for investors an optimum overall return. In addition to investing in physical assets, the Fund can use derivatives to create exposure to the SWIX or subsets thereof in a low cost and efficient manner.

WHO SHOULD INVEST

Investors who are seeking long term capital growth through exposure to the South Africa equity market by investing in a fund with a low tracking error relative to the SWIX and who are cost conscious.

RISK INDICATOR DEFINITION

These portfolios typically hold meaningful equity and/or offshore exposure which may result in significant capital volatility over all periods. Due to their nature expected long term returns are higher than for the other risk categories.

RISK INDICATOR



ANNUALISED PERFORMANCE (%)			CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE	
	Fund	Benchmark		
1 year	8.00	7.85		
3 years	10.50	10.59		
5 years	8.59	8.69		
Since incep.	7.07	7.17		
Highest rolling 1 year	50.76	51.51		
Lowest rolling 1 year	-21.05	-20.88		

RISK AND FUND STATS (Since inception)			TOP 10 SHARES	
Since inception (p.a.)	Fund	Benchmark		% of Fund
Alpha	-0.10%		Naspers Ltd - N Shares	9.8
Sharpe Ratio	0.08	0.09	Firststrand Ltd	6.2
Standard Deviation	15.76%	15.22%	Standard Bank Group Ltd	4.7
Max Drawdown	-26.52%	-26.03%	Gold Fields Ltd	4.1
Dividend Yield	4.39%	4.43%	MTN Group Ltd	3.5
PE Ratio	15.54	15.37	Prosus NV	3.3
			Anglo American Plc	3.2
			Capitec Bank Holdings Ltd	3.0
			Cie Financiere Richemont SA	2.7
			British American Tobacco Plc	2.5
			Total	42.9

ASSET ALLOCATION		SECTOR ALLOCATION (%)			
		Fund	Benchmark	Relative	
		Basic Materials	22.9	23.0	0.0
		Consumer Discretionary	0.0	0.1	-0.1
		Consumer Goods	7.9	7.9	-0.1
		Consumer Services	11.5	11.5	0.0
		Financials	32.9	33.0	-0.1
		Health Care	2.1	2.2	-0.1
		Industrials	4.1	4.2	-0.1
		Technology	13.1	13.2	-0.2
		Telecommunications	4.6	4.7	-0.1
		Utilities	0.1	0.1	-0.1
		Cash	0.9	0.0	0.9

Prescient

31 DECEMBER 2023

ABOUT THE FUND

Fund Manager:
Prescient Equity Team

Fund Classification:
South African - Equity - General

Benchmark:
FTSE/JSE Africa Shareholder Weighted TR Index (SWIX)

JSE Code:
PCEA2

ISIN:
ZAE000238283

Fund Size:
R708.3 m

No of Units:
542,577,260

Unit Price (cpu):
126.58

Inception Date:
31 December 2016

Minimum Investment:
R10 000 lump-sum
R1 000 per month

Income Distribution:
31 March 2023 - 2.31 cpu

Initial Fee:
0.00%

Annual Management Fee:
0.30% (excl VAT)

Fund Class
A2

(All performance figures are net of TIC)

Fee Breakdown:	
Management Fee	0.30%
Performance Fees	0.00%
Other Fees*	0.08%
Total Expense Ratio (TER)	0.38%
Transaction Costs (TC)	0.05%
Total Investment Charge (TIC)	0.43%

*Other fees includes underlying fee (where applicable): Audit Fees, Custody Fees, Trustee Fees and VAT

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FUND MONTHLY RETURNS

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD
2017	2.48%	-1.49%	2.15%	4.32%	-0.11%	-3.78%	6.43%	2.34%	-2.06%	6.75%	3.20%	-0.35%	21.10%
2018	-0.75%	-1.14%	-5.22%	4.47%	-4.85%	2.75%	0.20%	1.16%	-4.59%	-6.06%	-0.68%	2.93%	-11.80%
2019	2.90%	1.61%	1.28%	5.63%	-5.72%	3.10%	-2.31%	-2.34%	0.30%	2.64%	-1.54%	3.72%	9.05%
2020	-1.81%	-8.90%	-14.30%	14.25%	-0.63%	7.55%	2.59%	-1.00%	-1.69%	-2.52%	8.43%	3.88%	2.62%
2021	4.91%	4.61%	2.62%	-0.15%	1.47%	-2.88%	1.75%	0.38%	-1.54%	2.72%	0.85%	4.65%	20.82%
2022	2.57%	1.89%	1.30%	-4.21%	0.78%	-7.97%	2.18%	-0.47%	-4.97%	5.51%	10.81%	-2.72%	3.39%
2023	8.32%	-2.98%	-1.55%	2.67%	-7.48%	5.04%	4.50%	-4.90%	-3.61%	-2.69%	9.30%	2.69%	8.00%

FUND COMMENTARY

Global markets closed off the 2023 calendar year on a much-welcomed positive note. After what had been a turbulent period for market sentiment and investor optimism towards risky assets, the MSCI World Index delivered a solid return of 4.91% in December to close the final quarter 11.42% higher and round off the year up an impressive 23.79%. This remarkable performance across the developed markets came amidst unrelenting pressure on equity investors throughout the year. The prevailing higher global interest rates not only encouraged widespread shifts towards higher yielding and less risky fixed income assets but also raised recessionary concerns and doubts around the successful execution of a soft landing for the economy. With inflation gradually abating and economies proving resilient to the tighter conditions however, the narrative swiftly turned bullish with the market pricing in rate cut expectations in 2024. The S&P 500, led by the technology and real estate sectors closed the month up 4.54%, and the quarter up an impressive 11.69%. This performance recouped almost all the ground lost in 2022, closing the year up 26.29% at near all-time highs. The same themes drove returns in Europe where the Eurostoxx was up 4.82% in December, closing the final quarter and calendar year up 12.47% and 19.46% respectively.

Although still firmly positive, emerging markets lagged their developed counterparts. The MSCI Emerging Markets Index delivered 3.91% for the month to close the quarter and calendar year up 7.86% and 9.83% respectively. This relative underperformance was primarily driven by China, which despite concerted economic revival efforts by the central bank, is still plagued by economic growth concerns and waning investor sentiment. The CSI 300 Index closed the month and final quarter down 1.80% and 4.99% respectively to deliver a negative 14.42% return for 2023.

The domestic equity market, led by the interest rate sensitive and rand play counters, staged an impressive comeback during the final quarter of the year. The financial sector led the charge, gaining 5.34% for the month to bring the quarter and calendar year return to 10.77% and 15.12% respectively. The resources sector held back the overall market performance this year, closing the month down 1.32% and ending the quarter and calendar year down 13.14% and 18.74% respectively. Despite strengthening by 2.68% and 3.05% for the month and final quarter respectively, the rand closed out the year at 18.36 to the US dollar, 7.21% weaker than at the end of 2022.

The FTSE/JSE Shareholder Index closed the month up 2.53% to bring the final quarter and calendar year returns to 8.04% and 7.85% respectively. The Fund was ahead of the benchmark, up 2.72% for the month, 9.31% for the final quarter and 8.39% (gross of fees) for the year.

Contributors to Performance:

The positions that contributed most to the absolute performance of the fund for the month were Firstrand Ltd (+9.02%), MTN Group Ltd (+12.20%), and Impala Platinum Holdings Ltd (+19.10%).

Detractors from Performance:

The positions that contributed most to the absolute performance of the fund for the month were Firstrand Ltd (+9.02%), MTN Group Ltd (+12.20%), and Impala Platinum Holdings Ltd (+19.10%).

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GLOSSARY

Annualised performance: Annualised performance shows longer term performance rescaled to a 1 year period. Annualised performance is the average return per year over the period. Actual annual figures are available to the investor on request.

Highest & Lowest performance: The highest and lowest performance for any 1 year over the period since inception have been shown.

NAV: The net asset value represents the assets of a Fund less its liabilities.

Current Yield: Annual income (interest or dividends) divided by the current price of the security.

CPU: Cents Per Unit to the Glossary

Alpha: Denotes the outperformance of the fund over the benchmark.

Sharpe Ratio: The Sharpe ratio is used to indicate the excess return the portfolio delivers over the risk free rate per unit of risk adopted by the fund.

Standard Deviation: The deviation of the return stream relative to its own average.

Max Drawdown: The maximum peak to trough loss suffered by the Fund since inception.

Dividend Yield: The weighted average dividend yield of all the underlying equity in the Fund. The dividend yield of each company is the dividends per share divided by the price.

PE Ratio: The weighted average price earnings ratio of all the underlying equity in the Fund. The price earnings ratio of each company is the price divided by the earnings per share.

Fund Specific Risks

Default Risk: The risk that the issuers of fixed income instruments may not be able to meet interest payments nor repay the money they have borrowed. The issuers credit quality is vital. The worse the credit quality, the greater the risk of default and therefore investment loss.

Derivatives risk: The use of derivatives could increase overall risk by magnifying the effect of both gains and losses in a Fund. As such, large changes in value and potentially large financial losses could result.

Interest rate risk: The value of fixed income investments (e.g. bonds) tends to be inversely related to interest and inflation rates. Hence their value decreases when interest rates and/or inflation rises.

% Property risk: Investments in real estate securities can carry the same risks as investing directly in real estate itself. Real estate prices move in response to a variety of factors, including local, regional and national economic and political conditions, interest rates and tax considerations.

Geographic / Sector risk: For investments primarily concentrated in specific countries, geographical regions and/or industry sectors, their resulting value may decrease whilst portfolios more broadly invested might grow.

Derivative counterparty risk: A counterparty to a derivative transaction may experience a breakdown in meeting its obligations thereby leading to financial loss.

Equity investment risk: Value of equities (e.g. shares) and equity-related investments may vary according to company profits and future prospects as well as more general market factors. In the event of a company default (e.g. bankruptcy), the owners of their equity rank last in terms of any financial payment from that company.

Information Disclosure

The portfolio has adhered to its policy objective and there were no material changes to the composition of the portfolio during the quarter.

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DISCLAIMER

Collective Investment Schemes in Securities (CIS) should be considered as medium to long-term investments. The value may go up as well as down and past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. CIS's are traded at the ruling price and can engage in scrip lending and borrowing. The collective investment scheme may borrow up to 10% of the market value of the portfolio to bridge insufficient liquidity. A schedule of fees, charges and maximum commissions is available on request from the Manager. There is no guarantee in respect of capital or returns in a portfolio. A CIS may be closed to new investors in order for it to be managed more efficiently in accordance with its mandate. CIS prices are calculated on a net asset basis, which is the total value of all the assets in the portfolio including any income accruals and less any permissible deductions (brokerage, STT, VAT, auditor's fees, bank charges, trustee and custodian fees and the annual management fee) from the portfolio divided by the number of participatory interests (units) in issue. Forward pricing is used. The Fund's Total Expense Ratio (TER) reflects the percentage of the average Net Asset Value (NAV) of the portfolio that was incurred as charges, levies and fees related to the management of the portfolio. A higher TER does not necessarily imply a poor return, nor does a low TER imply a good return. The current TER cannot be regarded as an indication of future TERs. During the phase in period TERs do not include information gathered over a full year. Transaction Costs (TC) is the percentage of the value of the Fund incurred as costs relating to the buying and selling of the Fund's underlying assets. Transaction cost is a necessary cost in administering the Fund and impacts Fund returns. It should not be considered in isolation as returns may be impacted by many other factors over time including market returns, the type of Fund, investment decisions of the investment manager and the TER.

Where a current yield has been included for Funds that derive its income primarily from interest bearing income, the yield is a weighted average yield of all underlying interest bearing instruments as at the last day of the month. This yield is subject to change as market rates and underlying investments change.

The Manager retains full legal responsibility for any third-party-named portfolio. Where foreign securities are included in a portfolio there may be potential constraints on liquidity and the repatriation of funds, macroeconomic risks, political risks, foreign exchange risks, tax risks, settlement risks; and potential limitations on the availability of market information. The investor acknowledges the inherent risk associated with the selected investments and that there are no guarantees. Please note that all documents, notifications of deposit, investment, redemption and switch applications must be received by Prescient by or before 13:00 (SA), to be transacted at the net asset value price for that day. Where all required documentation is not received before the stated cut-off time, Prescient shall not be obliged to transact at the net asset value price as agreed to. Funds are priced at either 3pm or 5pm depending on the nature of the Fund. Prices are published daily and are available on the Prescient website.

Performance has been calculated using net NAV to NAV numbers, including actual initial and all ongoing fees, with income reinvested on the reinvestment date. The performance for each period shown reflects the return for investors who have been fully invested for that period. Individual investor performance may differ as a result of initial fees, the actual investment date, the date of reinvestments and dividend withholding tax. Full performance calculations are available from the manager on request.

This portfolio operates as a white label fund under the Prescient Unit Trust Scheme, which is governed by the Collective Investment Schemes Control Act.

For any additional information such as fund prices, brochures and application forms please go to www.prescient.co.za

CONTACT DETAILS

Management Company:

Prescient Management Company (RF) (Pty) Ltd., **Registration number:** 2002/022560/07 **Physical address:** Prescient House, Westlake Business Park, Otto Close, Westlake, 7945 **Postal address:** PO Box 31142, Tokai, 7966 **Telephone number:** 0800 111 899 **E-mail:** info@prescient.co.za **Website:** www.prescient.co.za

Trustee:

Nedbank Investor Services, **Physical address:** 2nd Floor, 16 Constantia Boulevard, Constantia Kloof, Roodepoort, 1709 **Telephone number:** +27 11 534 6557 **Website:** www.nedbank.co.za

The Management Company and Trustee are registered and approved under the Collective Investment Schemes Control Act (No.45 of 2002). Prescient is a member of the Association for Savings and Investments SA.

Investment Manager:

Prescient Investment Management (Pty) Ltd, Registration number: 1998/023640/07 is an authorised Financial Services Provider (FSP 612) under the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act (No.37 of 2002), to act in the capacity as investment manager. This information is not advice, as defined in the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act (No.37 of 2002). Please be advised that there may be representatives acting under supervision. **Physical address:** Block B, Silverwood, Silverwood Lane, Steenberg Office Park, Tokai, 7945 **Postal address:** PO Box 31142, Tokai 7966 **Telephone number:** +27 21 700 3600 **Website:** www.prescient.co.za

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