

PRESCIENT DEFENSIVE FUND (A2)

MINIMUM DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT

INVESTMENT AND RETURN OBJECTIVE

The Fund aims to achieve healthy real returns over the long term and to outperform the ASISA category average of the South African - Multi-Asset - Low Equity funds over a full market cycle by maintaining moderate exposure to growth assets like equities.

INVESTMENT PROCESS

This Fund invests in local and offshore money market, bonds and inflation-linked bonds, property, preference and ordinary shares, derivatives and unlisted instruments to meet the investment objectives. Fund performance can be generated from taking interest rate views or duration, yield enhancement via credit instruments, asset allocation and exposure equities.

WHO SHOULD INVEST

Investors seeking real returns coupled with a stable and attractive income yield via significant exposure to the South African interest bearing markets. Although the Fund's mandate allows investment up to 40% in equities, it is expected to have lower actual exposure on average. This Fund is suitable to investors with a medium to long-term investment horizon and is Regulation 28 compliant.

RISK INDICATOR DEFINITION

These portfolios typically have moderate equity exposure or in the case of bond funds, longer duration bond exposure, resulting in some capital volatility over the shorter term. They are managed in such a manner that the probability of capital losses over one year periods is unlikely. These portfolios typically target returns in the region of 3% - 4% above inflation over the long term.

RISK INDICATOR



ANNUALISED PERFORMANCE (%)				CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE	
<p>Bar chart showing annualised performance (%) for Fund, Benchmark, and Category Avg across YTD, 1 year, 3 years, 5 years, and Since incep. periods.</p>				<p>Line chart showing cumulative performance (%) for Fund, Benchmark, and Category Avg from Jun-17 to Feb-24.</p>	
ANNUALISED PERFORMANCE (%)				RISK AND FUND STATS	
	Fund	Benchmark	Category Avg	Since inception (p.a.)	
1 year	10.23	10.28	7.81	Alpha	-0.96%
3 years	8.01	10.08	7.71	Sharpe Ratio	0.18
5 years	7.57	8.82	7.42	Standard Deviation	8.65%
Since incep.	7.39	8.35	7.00	Max Drawdown	-17.22%
Highest 1 year	28.48	15.35	17.26	% Positive Months	66.25%
Lowest 1 year	-11.24	1.30	-3.10		
ASSET ALLOCATION (%)				CURRENCY EXPOSURE	
	S.A	DMs	EMs	Total	
Equity	4.93	8.46	9.16	22.55	<p>Pie chart showing currency exposure: RAND (HEDGED) 29.4%, US DOLLAR 15.2%, and RAND 55.4%.</p>
Property	2.60	0.00	0.00	2.60	
Gvt. Bonds	17.45	13.76	0.00	31.21	
ILB's	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Corp. Bonds	4.96	0.00	0.00	4.96	
Pref Shares	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Infrastructure & Renewables	9.68	0.00	0.00	9.68	
Cash & Income	15.86	13.14	0.00	29.00	
Total	55.48	35.36	9.16	100.00	

Prescient

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

29 FEBRUARY 2024

ABOUT THE FUND

Fund Manager:

Prescient Balanced Team

Fund Classification:

South Africa – Multi Asset – Low Equity

Benchmark:

All Bond Index (TR) 35%

MSCI World (TR) 17%

SteFI 15%

SWIX Allshare Capped (TR) 10%

Allshare (TR) 10%

SAPY (TR) 5%

US Treasuries 4%

US 1 Month TB 4%

Return Target:

CPI + 4%

JSE Code:

PADA2

ISIN:

ZAE000246781

Fund Size:

R1.1 bn

No of Units:

171,142,897

Unit Price (cpu):

116.42

Inception Date:

30 June 2017

Minimum Investment:

R10 000 lump-sum

R1 000 per month

Income Distribution:

31 March 2023 - 4.82 cpu

Initial Fee:

0.00%

Annual Management Fee:

0.30% (excl VAT)

Fee Class:

A2

(All performance figures are net of TIC)

Fee Breakdown:

Management Fee 0.30%

Performance Fees 0.00%

Other Fees* 0.19%

Total Expense Ratio (TER) 0.49%

Transaction Costs (TC) 0.02%

Total Investment Charge (TIC) 0.51%

*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							2.10%	0.93%	0.41%	1.96%	0.81%	0.36%	6.73%
2018	-0.22%	-0.53%	-0.39%	1.78%	-0.62%	0.51%	0.86%	1.19%	-0.77%	-0.47%	0.14%	1.15%	2.64%
2019	1.49%	0.45%	0.54%	1.87%	-1.12%	2.44%	-0.09%	-0.05%	1.15%	1.97%	-0.14%	1.04%	9.90%
2020	-0.36%	-4.40%	-13.10%	6.80%	1.31%	3.39%	1.30%	0.40%	-1.17%	-1.53%	6.32%	4.69%	2.01%
2021	0.89%	3.05%	0.29%	3.16%	0.64%	0.50%	1.57%	1.23%	-1.31%	1.72%	1.58%	3.00%	17.48%
2022	-1.48%	0.66%	-0.16%	-2.26%	0.45%	-3.59%	3.05%	-0.42%	-3.90%	2.54%	3.66%	-0.04%	-1.80%
2023	4.15%	-1.09%	0.95%	0.35%	-1.16%	1.81%	1.49%	0.26%	-2.22%	-0.40%	5.46%	2.42%	12.39%
2024	0.23%	0.80%											1.03%

FUND COMMENTARY

Inflation in the US, prices saw a higher-than-expected increase in January, mainly due to persistently high shelter costs impacting consumers. The Consumer Price Index (CPI), a comprehensive gauge of prices for goods and services across the economy, rose by 0.3% during the month. Over a 12-month period, this amounted to a 3.1% increase, slightly lower than December's 3.4%. Market expectations are now adjusting to match the Federal Reserve's dot plot, with predictions now indicating three interest rate cuts for the year. This is a significant shift from the nearly seven cuts anticipated at the start of the year. Inflation in the 20-nation euro zone eased to 2.6% in February, but both the headline and core figures were higher than expected. In Japan, the country's core inflation rate — which excludes food and energy — fell to 2% year-on-year in January, after a third monthly increase, surprising slightly to the upside and suggesting that a sustainable return to ultra-low inflation may not be in the cards.

The Bank of Japan and the Swiss National Bank are anticipated to be the two major Central Banks likely to make significant policy shifts in the next two months, albeit in contrasting directions. Switzerland is expected to become the first G10 country to lower interest rates, with the market pricing in approximately a 60% likelihood of a 25 basis point cut happening this month. The European Central Bank is also expected to commence rate cuts in June and the US Federal Reserve in July. On the other hand, the Bank of England is now projected to be one of the last to start easing its tight monetary policy, with a slight majority of economists foreseeing the first cut happening in August.

While many major Central Banks are contemplating monetary policy loosening after more than two years of aggressive tightening to counter soaring inflation, the scenario for the Bank of Japan is quite the opposite. The bank's interest rate has been fixed at -0.1% since January 2016, as policymakers aimed to spur the economy out of a prolonged period of stagnation. A potential rate hike by the Bank of Japan would mark the country's first in 16 years.

Meanwhile, in South Africa, the focus in February was on the 2024 budget announcement. The Minister of Finance revealed that the National Treasury plans to utilize the Gold and Foreign Exchange Contingency Reserve Account (GFECRA) to alleviate debt costs, with the aim of stabilizing the debt-to-GDP ratio by 2025/26 compared to previous estimates. However, fiscal constraints persist due to reduced collections from corporate taxes and value-added taxes.

In February, developed market stocks continued their upward trend, which began towards the end of last year. The MSCI World Total Return index surged for the fourth consecutive month, rising by 4.2%. In the US, both the S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite index saw significant gains of 5.3% and 6.1% respectively. European and Japanese indices also experienced notable increases, with Japan's Nikkei index rising by 8%, bringing its year-to-date increase to over 16%. Emerging market equities rebounded, with the MSCI Emerging Markets Total Return index climbing by 4.8% after a decline in January. This rebound was primarily driven by a recovery in Chinese stocks, with both the Shanghai and Hang Seng Composite indices seeing gains of 8.1% and 7.2% respectively. India's Nifty 50 Total Return index also saw a modest increase of 1.3%. Chinese and Taiwanese stocks collectively account for approximately 40% of the MSCI Emerging Markets index, while Indian stocks represent about 18%. However, domestically, our All-Share Index performed poorly, declining by -2.4% as resources weighed down on the index.

Bond yields rose across all major markets globally. The Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index, which tracks global investment-grade debt across various local currency markets, experienced a -1.3% decline in price return.

Contributors to performance:

Offshore equity was the strongest contributor to performance.

Detractors from performance:

Local equity detracted from performance.

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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.

% Positive Month: The percentage of months since inception where the Fund has delivered positive return.

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.

Developing Market (excluding SA) risk: Some of the countries invested in may have less developed legal, political, economic and/or other systems. These markets carry a higher risk of financial loss than those in countries generally regarded as being more developed.

Foreign Investment risk: Foreign securities investments may be subject to risks pertaining to overseas jurisdictions and markets, including (but not limited to) local liquidity, macroeconomic, political, tax, settlement risks and currency fluctuations.

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.

Currency exchange risk: Changes in the relative values of individual currencies may adversely affect the value of investments and any related income.

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.

Liquidity risk: If there are insufficient buyers or sellers of particular investments, the result may lead to delays in trading and being able to make settlements, and/or large fluctuations in value. This may lead to larger financial losses than expected.

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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