# KZN MODERATE FUND

MAY 2024

The KZN Moderate Fund is a 50% / 50% combination of the KZN Managed Fund and KZN Defensive Fund. It is a fund with moderate risk that aims to deliver real growth but with less volatility.

The portfolio is well diversified and invests across all local and foreign asset classes and makes use of good quality balanced asset managers and specialist asset managers within certain asset classes.

Over the longer term returns are expected to be less volatile but at the same time lower than for a typical balanced fund, because of the 50% exposure to the KZN Defensive Fund.

Due to its moderate allocation to growth assets, the fund has a moderate chance of capital loss in the short term, but is expected to achieve real growth of capital over the long-term, albeit lower than that of a typical balanced fund. As a result, the fund is best suited to members who have medium term (3-5 years) investment horizon.

The portfolio complies with the prudential investment guidelines set out in Regulation 28 of the Pensions Funds Act.

#### MONTHLY COMMENTARY

Equity bull market continues as central banks begin rate cuts. For the first time in its 128-year history, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose above 40 000. Copper surged to its highest-ever level, rising above \$11 000 a ton. Markets have been supported by rate cuts in select markets, with Swedish Riksbank joining the Swiss National Bank in cutting its policy rate. Many emerging markets have also cut rates in 2024, including Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Hungary and the Czech Republic. The European Central Bank and Canada are expected to cut in June, with the US only likely in September.

The bull market continues despite cooling US economic growth, even as inflation remains sticky. April's core consumer price index (CPI) fell to 3.6% year on year, in line with expectations. The US economy appears to be slowing, with a number of disappointing economic updates. However, the rise of the internet lifted US labour productivity by about 1%-1.3% per year from the late 1990s to the early 2000s, and AI could do the same in the coming years.

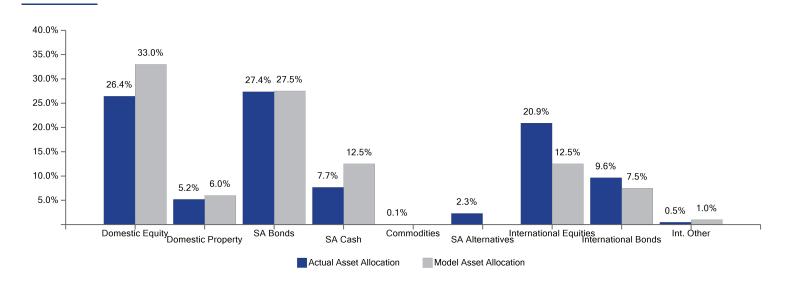
Heightened geopolitical risks have also continued: Suez Canal traffic remains 80% below December's volume, and Israel is expanding its military operations against Hamas in the southern Gaza city of Rafah after 1 million civilians evacuated. The global election calendar continues. South Africa's election results are in: the 58.6% voter turnout marked its lowest level in 30 years. The ANC lost it majority, dropping from 57.5% to 40.2%, with the MKP the standout winner, going from nowhere to 14.6%. We now await the final coalitions

After April's home prices saw their biggest fall in a decade, Xi Jinping's government announced a multi-pronged approach in its most forceful attempt to rescue the Chinese property market. The plan will help mop up excess unsold homes, give developers revenue and provide affordable housing. At CNY300bn, the numbers are not big enough yet, but it has the potential to become a game changer.

For now, given the strong AI investment in the US and high levels of productivity growth, we maintain our overweight equity and overweight US positioning.

The FTSE/JSE Capped SWIX Index increased by 0.9%, Industrials were up 1.7% and Financials down 0.4%. The JSE All Bond Index rose 0.8%, while the ZAR/USD exchange rate ended the month unchanged.

#### ACTUAL ASSET ALLOCATION





## FUND SUMMARY AS AT 31 MAY 2024

STATISTIC	FUND	BENCHMARK
% Positive Months	66.7%	65.0%
% Negative Months	33.3%	35.0%
Worst Month	-9.1%	-8.8%
Best Month	7.8%	8.3%
Average Return	0.8%	0.7%
Median Return	0.8%	0.6%
Maximum Drawdown	-12.4%	-12.3%

## PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS TO 31 MAY 2024

PERIOD	FUND	BENCHMARK
1 Month	1.4%	1.2%
3 Months	2.8%	2.4%
6 Months	5.4%	4.9%
Year to Date	3.6%	2.7%
1 Year	11.0%	10.9%
3 Years	9.2%	8.2%
5 Years	9.4%	8.4%
Since Inception	7.9%	7.7%

Inception Date: 29 May 2015. Returns prior to inception are backtested. Returns are net of the TIC.

## **FEES**

	PERCENTAGE
Total Expense Ratio (TER)	0.54% (Mar 2024)
Transaction Costs (TC)	0.09% (Mar 2024)
Total Investment Charge (TIC)	0.63% (Mar 2024)

## CALENDAR YEAR RETURNS

PERFORMANCE	FUND	BENCHMARK		
2022	2.4%	1.0%		
2023	11.5%	12.1%		

## MANAGER ALLOCATION 31 MAY 2024

MANAGER	PERCENTAGE
Vunani	11.0%
BlackRock	11.4%
Coronation	14.1%
Ninety One Global Balanced Fund	7.5%
M&G - Global	9.7%
Argon SA Equity Fund	4.8%
Stanlib Bond Fund	4.4%
MAZI Capital SA Equity (Swix) Fund	3.8%
Mianzo Capped Swix Active Equity Fund	3.8%
Coronation - SA Cash	3.5%
Taquanta Core Cash - KZN Municipal Pension Fund	3.5%
KZN Satrix SWIX Portfolio	2.9%
Garrington Capital (Coral Cove)	2.4%
Lima Mbeu Equity Portfolio	2.0%
Mergence Equity (Swix) Fund	1.9%
P1 Finance PLC	2.4%
Meago - KZN Municipal Pension Fund	1.4%
SMMI Positive Return Fund Three B11	1.4%
MSM Property Fund (Pty) LTD	1.3%
AFI Private Markets Fund	1.0%
Mahlako Energy Fund I Partnership	0.7%
Old Mutual - SA Private Equity	0.7%
Prescient Clean energy & Infrastructure Debt	1.0%
SPDR S&P Kensho New Economies Composite ETF	0.6%
Vuna	0.5%
ATA Fund 3	0.5%
RE CAPITAL	0.5%
KZN APEX	0.8%
UMTHOMBO Private Markets Fund	0.4%
Infra Impact Mid-Market Infrastructure Fund 1	0.2%
Ascension Private Equity Fund I	0.2%
Mergence Infrastructure And Development Equity Fund II BI. 6% SAPY, 12.5% STeFI, 12.5% MSCI World Index, 7.5% B	0.1% Barclavs Global

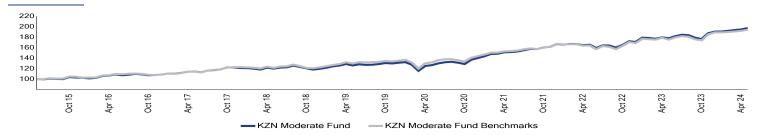
#### BENCHMARK COMPOSITION

The fund benchmark is a composite benchmark consisting of: 33% SWIX, 27.5% ALBI, 6% SAPY, 12.5% STEFI, 12.5% MSCI World Index, 7.5% Barclays Global Bond Index, 1% Global Cash

## HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE

YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ОСТ	NOV	DEC	YEAR
2023	4.8%	-0.3%	-0.9%	1.5%	-1.0%	2.2%	1.6%	-0.4%	-2.6%	-1.4%	6.2%	1.7%	11.5%
2024	0.1%	0.7%	0.8%	0.6%	1.4%								3.6%

#### **CUMULATIVE INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE**



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