

KZN DEFENSIVE FUND

FEBRUARY 2025

The KZN Defensive Fund is a low risk fund that aims to balance the needs of members that are approaching retirement; to preserve their capital, to maintain exposure to growth assets and maintain the level of income that can be secured at retirement.

The fund is well diversified between asset classes, both locally and internationally, but is managed within conservative parameters. The fund's asset allocation is fixed and the fund makes use of specialist asset managers to select the most attractive securities to invest in within each asset class.

Due to its relatively low allocation to growth assets, the fund has a low chance of capital loss in the short term and is expected to achieve moderate real growth of capital over the long-term. The fund is best suited to members who have a short to medium term (1-3 years) investment horizon.

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

MONTHLY COMMENTARY

The dominant theme for financial markets in February has shifted from AI and tariffs to the potential US-led Russia-Ukraine ceasefire. America's recent pivot toward Russia is redefining the transatlantic defence alliance. The European Union (EU) is realising it may be on its own. Bloomberg Economics estimates that the cost of supporting Ukraine will push the aggregate EU defence budget toward 3.5% of GDP, nearly double its current level. If financed by debt, this would add an additional \$2.7 trillion to the five largest European NATO members' borrowing needs over the next decade. Some in the EU see this moment as an opportunity for greater independence away from the US, but coalition governments and high debt levels mean increasing defence spend won't be quick or easy. The ceasefire for the euro area has been largely priced in year-to-date, but a lasting ceasefire without the Ukraine's buy-in will be difficult to sustain.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent provided insight into Trump's key measure of success when he highlighted the "3-3-3" plan aimed at lowering the US 10-year yield.

These are great objectives, but they present conflicting challenges. Implementing further tax cuts is likely to increase the deficit, while achieving sustained growth may be hindered by factors such as reduced immigration and increased tariffs. Tariffs have grabbed the headlines, but immigrants now comprise nearly one in five US workers - strictly restricting immigration will reduce growth and push up inflation.

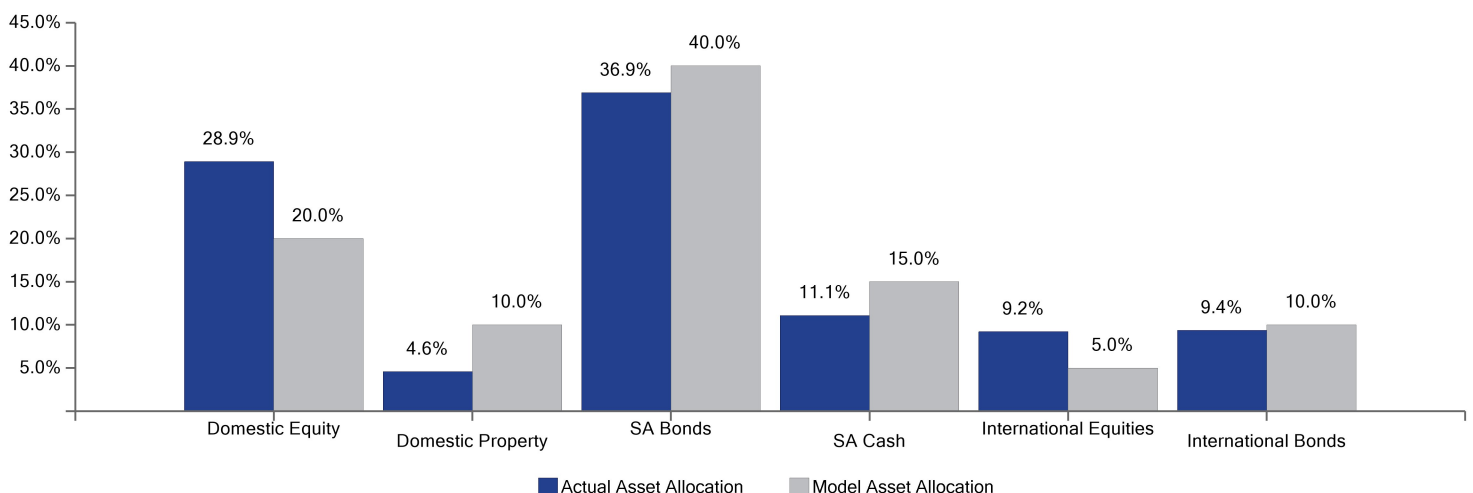
Incoming data remain aligned with our high-for-long interest rate and inflation narrative in which global growth remains resilient, inflation stays sticky and central bank easing remains limited. Upward pressure on interest rates should continue as governments lift fiscal spend for increased defence spending in Europe. Provided Trump does not implement severe tariffs, the choppy risk-on backdrop should persist, with any significant rise in US bond yields resulting in tariff reversals. We remain overweight the US and equities.

European and Chinese markets are bouncing off their lows, but structural headwinds remain, with political uncertainties in Germany and France weighing on confidence and tariff threats remaining to Europe and China - we remain cautious of these bounces.

We remain underweight South African bonds and neutral SA equity given the negative sentiment surrounding the US funding cuts, the resurgence of stage 6 load shedding and the lack of consensus around the Budget. We will review after the updated Budget on 12 March.

The FTSE/JSE Capped SWIX Index lost 0.4%, while Industrials gained 3.4% and Financials rose 0.8%. The JSE All Bond Index increased by 0.1% and the Rand strengthened 0.5% against the Dollar.

ACTUAL ASSET ALLOCATION



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KZN

MUNICIPAL PENSION FUND

FUND SUMMARY AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2025

STATISTIC	FUND	BENCHMARK
% Positive Months	70.0%	65.0%
% Negative Months	30.0%	35.0%
Worst Month	-7.3%	-11.3%
Best Month	5.3%	9.4%
Average Return	0.9%	0.8%
Median Return	0.8%	0.7%
Maximum Drawdown	-7.3%	-11.3%

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS TO 28 FEBRUARY 2025

PERIOD	FUND	BENCHMARK
1 Month	0.7%	0.0%
3 Months	2.3%	1.0%
6 Months	5.5%	4.4%
Year to Date	1.5%	0.7%
1 Year	14.7%	14.7%
3 Years	9.7%	9.6%
5 Years	10.6%	9.8%
Since Inception	8.3%	7.3%

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

FEES

	PERCENTAGE
Total Expense Ratio (TER)	0.49% (Dec 2024)
Transaction Costs (TC)	0.04% (Dec 2024)
Total Investment Charge (TIC)	0.53% (Dec 2024)

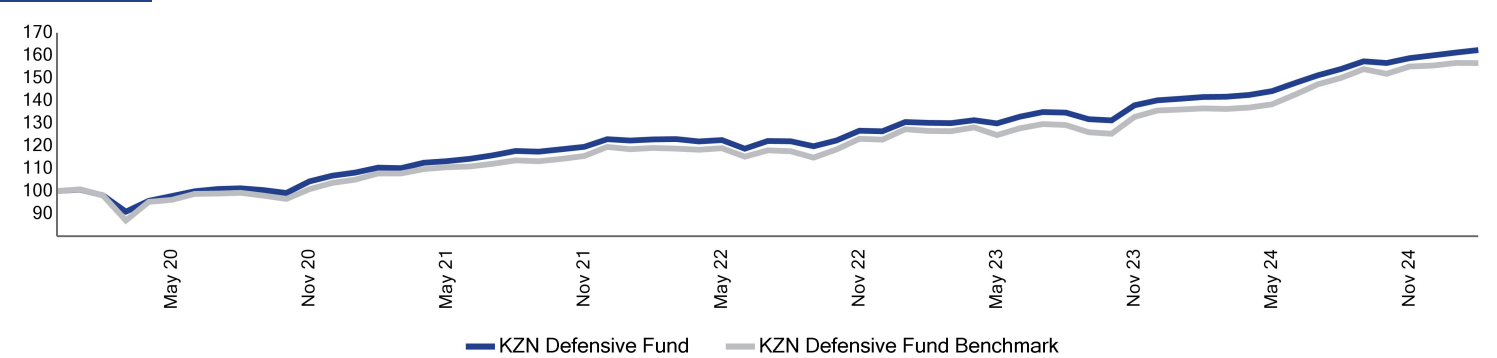
BENCHMARK COMPOSITION

The fund benchmark is a composite benchmark consisting of: 18% Capped SWIX, 40% ALBI, 5% SAPY, 12% STeFI, 10% MSCI All Country World Index, 10% Barclays Global Agg Bond Index, 5% Private Market Composite

HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE

YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEAR
2020	0.7%	-2.6%	-7.3%	5.3%	2.2%	2.2%	1.0%	0.3%	-0.8%	-1.3%	5.1%	2.4%	6.8%
2021	1.3%	2.0%	-0.2%	2.2%	0.6%	0.9%	1.3%	1.7%	-0.3%	0.9%	0.9%	2.8%	15.1%
2022	-0.5%	0.4%	0.1%	-0.8%	0.5%	-3.1%	2.9%	-0.1%	-1.8%	2.1%	3.5%	-0.2%	2.8%
2023	3.2%	-0.3%	-0.1%	1.0%	-1.1%	2.3%	1.5%	-0.2%	-2.2%	-0.4%	5.1%	1.6%	10.8%
2024	0.5%	0.5%	0.1%	0.6%	1.2%	2.5%	2.3%	1.8%	2.2%	-0.5%	1.4%	0.8%	14.2%
2025	0.8%	0.7%											1.5%

CUMULATIVE INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE



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CALENDAR YEAR RETURNS

PERFORMANCE	FUND	BENCHMARK
2020	6.8%	3.6%
2021	15.1%	15.3%
2022	2.8%	2.7%
2023	10.8%	10.5%
2024	14.2%	14.6%

TOP 10 MANAGER ALLOCATION 28 FEBRUARY 2025

MANAGER	PERCENTAGE
Vunani	18.4%
Coronation Absolute Bond - SA Bonds	11.0%
Stanlib Bond Fund	7.4%
iShares Developed World Index Fund	6.5%
Taquantia Core Cash - KZN Municipal Pension Fund	5.5%
Coronation - SA Cash	5.5%
KZN Satrix SmartCore Portfolio	4.3%
Argon SA Equity Fund	4.3%
Mianzo Capped Swix Active Equity Fund	3.2%
Garrington Private Credit Fund - Class B2 Shares	2.9%
Other	30.9%