

KZN DEFENSIVE FUND

DECEMBER 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

Global markets closed out 2025 against a backdrop of diverging growth dynamics and a notably weaker US dollar. President Trump's punitive tariff regime disrupted global trade flows, while the resulting 10% decline in the US dollar - its weakest annual performance since 2017 - emerged as a key driver of market performance across asset classes.

Monetary policy and reciprocal tariffs dominated investor focus in the US. Following three interest rate cuts in 2024, the Federal Reserve delivered a further 75 basis points of easing in 2025, supporting equity markets and contributing to ongoing dollar weakness. This accommodative stance appears set to continue, with current Fed Chair Jerome Powell expected to be replaced by Kevin Hassett, a perceived Trump loyalist, who has indicated that he sees no tariff-related threat to the Federal Reserve's 2% inflation target.

Over the year, strong US equity market returns were underpinned by resilient corporate earnings and continued enthusiasm around artificial intelligence-related investment. While market leadership broadened modestly beyond mega-cap technology stocks, performance continued to largely be driven by companies at the forefront of the AI revolution. For South African investors, however, the strong 16% US dollar return from the S&P 500 was significantly diluted by the 14% appreciation of the rand, reducing returns to 2.2% in local currency terms.

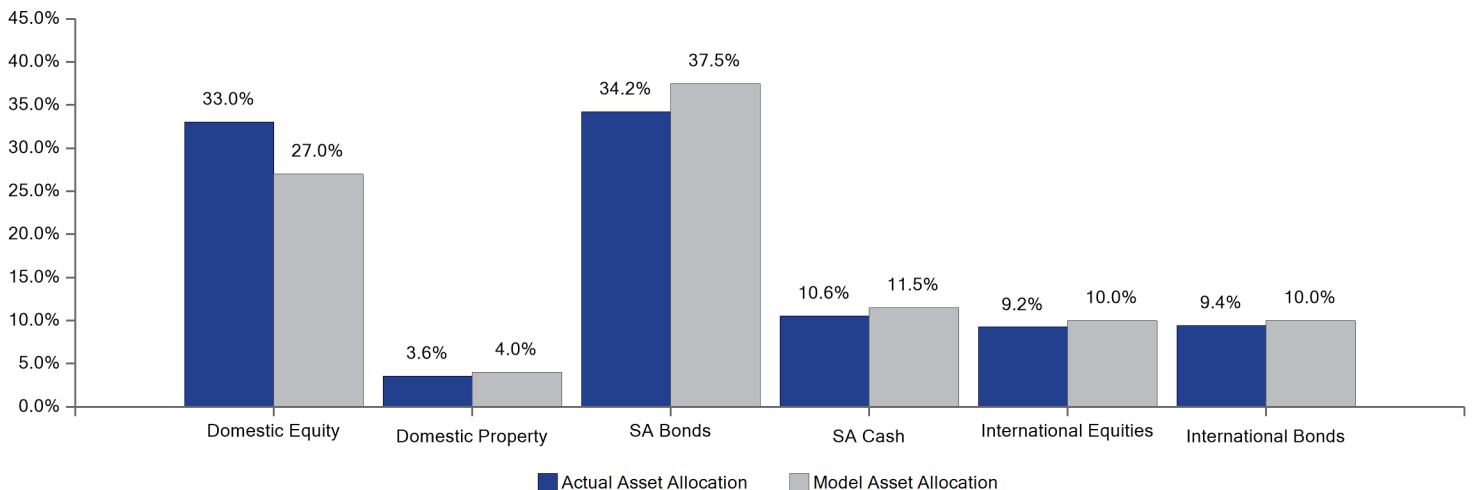
The strengthening rand coincided with a powerful rally in commodity markets. Gold and silver recorded their strongest annual gains since 1979, while copper rose by the most in a decade. This commodity-led momentum propelled the FTSE/JSE Capped All Share Index to a 43% return for the year, delivering another period in which domestic assets outperformed their global counterparts. The JSE All Bond Index gained 24.2% - the second consecutive year of strong double-digit returns for the domestic bond market.

Emerging markets also benefited from the weaker US dollar, with the MSCI Emerging Markets Index returning 17.3% in rand terms, outperforming the MSCI World Index by 11% for the year.

Looking ahead to 2026, investors face an environment of uncertain global growth and divergent inflation dynamics. With the US cutting rates while more hawkish sentiment prevails elsewhere, conditions appear supportive of a delay in any meaningful US dollar recovery.

The FTSE/JSE Capped SWIX Index improved by 4.6%, while Industrials gained 1.8% and Financials rose 7.3%. The JSE All Bond Index increased by 2.7% and the Rand strengthened 3.3% against the Dollar.

ACTUAL ASSET ALLOCATION AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2025



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KZN
MUNICIPAL PENSION FUND
Together We Grow Your Wealth

FUND SUMMARY AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

STATISTIC	FUND	BENCHMARK
% Positive Months	75.0%	70.0%
% Negative Months	25.0%	30.0%
Worst Month	-3.1%	-3.2%
Best Month	5.1%	5.9%
Average Return	1.0%	1.0%
Median Return	0.9%	1.1%
Maximum Drawdown	-3.5%	-4.0%

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS TO 31 DECEMBER 2025

PERIOD	FUND	BENCHMARK
1 Month	1.4%	1.5%
3 Months	5.7%	6.3%
6 Months	11.3%	12.7%
Year to Date	17.9%	20.6%
1 Year	17.9%	20.6%
3 Years	14.2%	15.2%
5 Years	12.0%	12.6%
Since Inception	9.2%	8.6%

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% (Sept 2025)
Transaction Costs (TC)	0.03% (Sept 2025)
Total Investment Charge (TIC)	0.52% (Sept 2025)

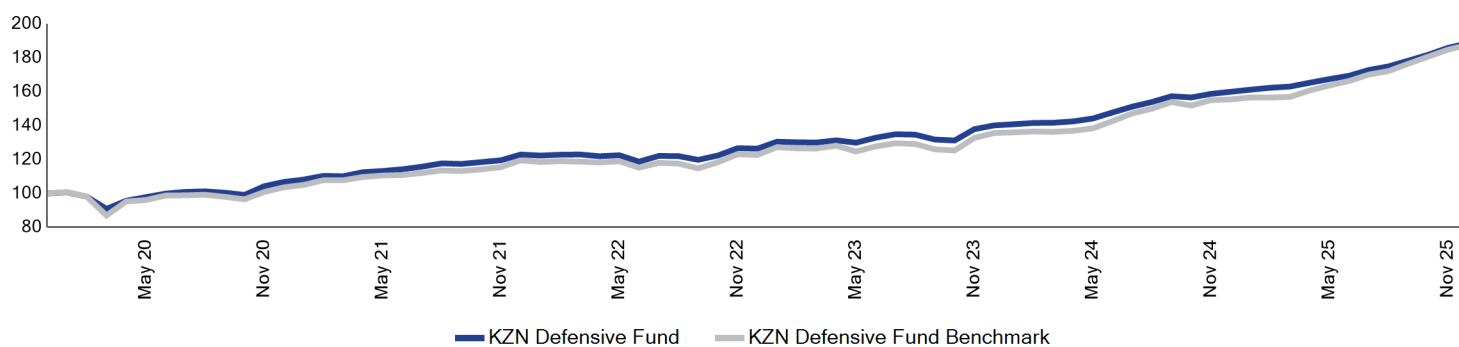
BENCHMARK COMPOSITION

The fund benchmark is a composite benchmark consisting of: 17% Capped SWIX, 37.5% ALBI, 4% SAPY, 11.5% STeFI, 10% MSCI All Country World Index, 10% Barclays Global Agg Bond Index, 10% 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%	0.4%	1.4%	1.3%	1.2%	2.0%	1.2%	1.9%	1.9%	2.2%	1.4%	17.9%

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%
2025	17.9%	20.6%

TOP 10 MANAGER ALLOCATION 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

MANAGER	PERCENTAGE
Vunani	17.1%
Coronation Absolute Bond - SA Bonds	10.3%
Stanlib Bond Fund	6.9%
iShares Developed World Index Fund	6.5%
Taquanta Core Cash - KZN Municipal Pension Fund	5.3%
Coronation - SA Cash	5.3%
KZN Satrix SmartCore Portfolio	4.6%
Argon SA Equity Fund	4.1%
Garrington Private Credit Fund - Class B2 Shares	3.2%
Mianzo Capped Swix Active Equity Fund	3.0%
Other	34.0%